



## Yes, smocked frocks are cool for grown-ups

INSIDE TIMES2



**Miaow! I was savaged by a cat**  
Carol Midgley

# Duke launches political attack

● Government at rock bottom, 'paranoid' Harry tells High Court ● Royal convention discarded on historic day of evidence

David Brown, Poppy Koronka

The Duke of Sussex struggled to justify his phone-hacking claims and breached royal convention yesterday during a historic day of evidence at the High Court.

Harry launched an extraordinary attack on Rishi Sunak's government, saying it was at "rock bottom", before almost five gruelling hours of evidence during which he described being left "paranoid" by tabloid newspapers.

He appeared in court for his privacy case against the publisher of the Daily Mirror, a day later than ordered by the

judge, to become the first senior royal in more than 130 years to give evidence from the witness box.

The duke, fifth in line to the throne, broke the convention that the royal family never interferes with politics. "Our country is judged globally by the state of our press and our government — both of which I believe are at rock bottom," he told the court.

"Democracy fails when your press fails to scrutinise and hold the government accountable, and instead chooses to get into bed with them so they can ensure the status quo."

He accused newspapers of hacking

his voicemails since he was a teenager, saying it made him feel he "couldn't trust anybody, which led to bouts of depression and paranoia".

The duke claims he was the victim of unlawful information-gathering along with the King, the Prince of Wales, and his mother Diana.

"I've always heard people refer to my mother as paranoid, but she wasn't," he said. "She was fearful of what was actually happening to her and now I know that I was the same."

He added: "I feel somewhat relieved to know that my paranoia towards my friends and family had, in fact, been

misplaced, although I feel sad for how much it impacted my adolescence."

Harry, 38, was forced to admit repeatedly that articles he claimed were the result of voicemail hacking or unlawful activities by private investigators actually emerged from official palace statements, interviews with him or his mother, or previous media reports.

The duke admitted his account of wanting to confront his mother's butler, Paul Burrell — whom he described as a "two-faced shit" — was contradicted by his own memoir, *Spare*, which was published in January.

He also addressed rumours that his

mother's redheaded lover was actually his father. "Numerous newspapers had reported a rumour that my biological father was James Hewitt, a man my mother had a relationship with after I was born," he said.

The duke said Chelsy Davy, his first serious girlfriend, ended their relationship because of media intrusion. Reports at the time blamed his own drug use, which he admitted in *Spare*.

He also suggested that he lived up to media "stereotypes" that meant he was, as the future king's younger brother, "either the playboy prince, the

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The destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine has left thousands of people homeless. Ukraine and Russia have blamed each other for the disaster

## Russia 'may target nuclear plant' after dam strike

Catherine Philp Kyiv

Russia may be plotting to blow up the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Ukraine warned after it accused the Kremlin of sabotaging a dam to send a wall of water cascading into the Black Sea.

Oleksiy Danilov, President Zelensky's top security official, told The Times that "the whole world" should be concerned by how reckless Moscow could be, calling yesterday's destruction of a hydroelectric power station "a fundamentally new stage of Russian

aggression". Danilov said after an emergency meeting of Ukraine's national security council: "It is a fact there are explosives [at the occupied Zaporizhzhia plant] ... since Putin had the hydroelectric power plant blown up on his demand, he's ready to do anything."

The Nova Kakhovka dam in south Ukraine was split in two by explosions overnight, sending water cascading down the Dnipro River, inundating communities and wildlife and polluting drinking water supplies. At least 17,000 residents were being evacuated within

hours as officials warned the deluge could affect a total of 40,000 across Ukrainian and Russian-occupied territory, and cut off electricity, gas and clean water as far as Crimea.

The dam's falling water levels could endanger the safety of the nuclear plant 90 miles upriver, a senior aide to Zelensky warned. Water from the reservoir is pumped to the plant for the reactors, all of which are currently offline but still require cooling. "The world once again finds itself on the brink of a nuclear disaster, because the Zaporizhzhia nuclear

power plant lost its source of cooling," Mykhailo Podolyak said.

Zelensky blamed "Russian terrorists" for the "largest human-made environmental disaster in Europe in decades". He said explosives had been detonated inside the hydroelectric station, which is under Russian control, to impede a looming counter-offensive. Moscow said Kyiv had shelled the dam itself to facilitate troop movements.

**Russia must answer at the World Court for its crimes, leading article, page 25**  
Reports and analysis, pages 26-27

## Weight-loss jabs bid to cut benefits bill

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Thousands more obese people will be offered weight-loss jabs in an NHS pilot scheme to assess whether appetite-suppressing drugs can cut waiting lists and increase levels of employment.

Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, said Wegovy and similar weight-loss medications would be a "game-changer", with ministers seeking to dramatically increase eligibility and availability.

The pilot scheme is designed to show that the drugs can cut the benefits bill and help fill job vacancies. Professor Sir Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England, will work with Treasury economists to measure the effects. "The Treasury is interested in seeing evidence that it can keep people in work, reduce sick days or get people back to work," a government source said. "Work is going on to see if they can get [the Office for Budget Responsibility] to score this as saving money."

Wegovy, also known as semaglutide, has been approved by the NHS after evidence that it can help people to reduce their weight by 10 per cent or more. It is one of an emerging generation of weight-loss drugs, which also includes Ozempic, that ministers believe could help solve Britain's obesity problem. The Times revealed this year that officials believe they could ultimately be offered to 12 million people.

Under recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, Wegovy must be given alongside help from specialist weight-management services, which have capacity for about 35,000 patients a year. The Department of Health is now launching a £40 million two-year pilot to see if the drugs can work with

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# Today's highlights

**7.05am** The health and social care secretary **Steve Barclay**  
**7.35am** The shadow levelling up, housing and communities secretary, **Lisa Nandy**  
**2pm** The pop (and kitchen disco) star **Sophie Ellis-Bextor**, right, on her new album, *Hana*  
**3.35pm** The journalist **Sathnam Sanghera** on his new book *Stolen History: The Truth About the British Empire and How it Shaped Us*  
**5pm** President Biden's former tech adviser and the architect of plans for an AI Bill of Rights, **Professor Alondra Nelson**

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## TODAY'S EDITION

### UK seeks a new alliance with US

Britain is to seek a military-style "economic alliance" with the US to counter the rise of China and the threat of artificial intelligence. Rishi Sunak will arrive in Washington today for a fourth face-to-face with President Biden this year. **Page 8**

### 'Rowling slur' in Oxfam cartoon

Oxfam has been criticised for releasing an anti-trans cartoon character apparently based on JK Rowling. The woman wears a badge saying "Terf", which stands for "trans-exclusionary radical feminist" and is regularly used as a slur by activists. **Page 11**

### Police failing to solve burglaries

Police have failed to solve any burglaries in nearly half of all areas in England and Wales for three years. More than 80 burglaries remained unsolved in each of the three worst areas: Hampshire, South Yorkshire and southeast London. **Page 19**

**70** days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia  
**#FreeEvan**



### Iran's missile threat to Israel

Iran has revealed what it says is a hypersonic missile, part of an escalation of threats directed at Israel. The republic claimed its newest weapon, the Fattah (meaning conqueror), can reach 15 times the speed of sound and penetrate all defences. **Page 28**

### CBI wins vote of confidence

The CBI has survived a crunch membership vote over its future after a workplace misconduct scandal. The business lobby group's plans for reform received 93 per cent approval from the 371 votes cast at an extraordinary general meeting. **Page 31**

### Rival golf tours club together

Golf's civil war is over after the Saudi-funded LIV forced a merger with the PGA and DP World Tour. Some leading players had been unaware of the deal — which ends legal cases between the tours — until reports emerged on social media. **Back page**

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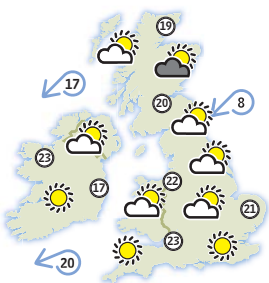
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## THE WEATHER



A mostly dry day with long sunny spells and a little drizzle possible in the north. **Full forecast, page 53**

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# China's secret police stations shut in UK after investigation

Billy Kenber, Matt Dathan

The Chinese embassy has closed down several unofficial police stations operating in the UK after a government investigation into their "unacceptable" presence.

Tom Tugendhat, the security minister, told MPs that officials had completed an inquiry into four sites secretly set up in Glasgow, Belfast, Croydon and Hendon, northwest London. He said the investigation, which began late last year, had not revealed any illegal activity, but suggested that press coverage and a police inquiry "had a suppressive impact" on China's intended use of the sites.

Tugendhat said the Chinese embassy had not sought permission to establish the stations and that their presence "will have worried and intimidated those who have left China and sought safety and freedom in the UK".

He told MPs in a written statement: "The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has told the Chinese embassy that any functions related to such 'police service stations' in the UK are unacceptable and that they must not operate in any form. The



The Times reported the issue in April

Chinese embassy has subsequently responded that all such stations have closed permanently."

The presence of dozens of secret Chinese police stations around the world was first publicised in a report by Safeguard Defenders, a Spanish non-profit human rights organisation, last September. It alleged that the sites were linked to the harassment and intimidation of Chinese dissidents, including efforts to force them to return to China.

The Chinese embassy has maintained that the UK sites were set up to assist Chinese citizens with basic administrative tasks, such as renewing their driving licences, and previously said the venues were "provided by local overseas Chinese communities who want to be helpful". Ministers and offi-

cials are confident that the British sites would have pursued more sinister functions had they not been exposed relatively soon after they were established.

Tugendhat said: "Any attempt by any foreign power to intimidate, harass or harm individuals or communities in the UK will not be tolerated" and it was an "insidious threat to our democracy and fundamental human rights".

In April The Times revealed that a businessman linked to an alleged Chinese police station in south London had organised Tory fundraising dinners. Ruiyou Lin, who runs a takeaway ordering platform from an office in Croydon that hosted the alleged police station, was photographed at fundraising dinners with Boris Johnson and Theresa May when they were prime minister.

The National Security Bill, which is going through parliament, would give the police and security services the power to take action against intimidatory behaviour by states. Tugendhat said the bill, which is in its final stages in the Lords, would cover "coercive" activities such as those carried out by Chinese secret police stations in the US.

**China's authoritarian instincts are clear, leading article, page 25**

## Hostile states face contract ban amid security concerns

Lara Spirit Red Box Reporter

Ministers will be able to ban Chinese companies from securing sensitive public contracts under plans to protect Britain from hostile states.

The government has tabled amendments to its procurement bill to ban suppliers that pose a risk to national security from specific types of contracts in a significant concession to the Conservative Party's China hawks.

New powers will ban companies based in hostile states from applying for contracts in sectors such as those related to defence and national security.

Writing in The Times Rex Box, Jeremy Quin and Alex Burghart, ministers in the Cabinet Office, said: "This means that we can adopt a precautionary approach, banning companies which may pose a specific risk to sensitive areas of government, for example GCHQ."

The Cabinet Office will also establish a specialist unit to investigate suppliers that pose a potential risk to national security. This National Security Unit for Procurement will be granted powers to assess whether such suppliers should be barred from bidding for

contracts. Ministers have agreed to publish a timeline for the removal of surveillance equipment produced by Chinese companies that are subject to Beijing's national security laws, such as CCTV cameras. Under China's National Intelligence Law, these companies must co-operate with Beijing's security services.

In November the government banned the installation of this equipment at "sensitive" sites after a Cabinet Office review raised security concerns. Research found that nearly 40 per cent of UK police forces used Chinese-made CCTV equipment, as did most schools and hospitals.

Alicia Kearns, chairwoman of the foreign affairs select committee, told The Times: "I'm delighted the government has listened and acted following my efforts to put national security at the heart of the Procurement Bill."

"From local councils to power plants, and security bodies like GCHQ, we must make sure hostile states cannot embed state-subsidised hostile technologies into our lives which capture and exfiltrate our data to the Chinese Communist Party and other hostile states and actors."

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## Labour school fees VAT sums 'don't add up'

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Labour's plan to add VAT to private school fees may raise very little revenue, according to a think tank.

The party has said that ending the tax breaks enjoyed by independent schools would raise £1.6 billion, which it would invest in the state sector.

However, analysis suggests that in a "best case" scenario for Labour the changes would bring in £1 billion. In a "worst case" scenario, there would be "very little" new revenue.

EDSK, an education think tank, said Labour's calculations did not take into account a drop-off in demand for private schools if VAT were added, or the money needed to teach pupils who would be moved to state schools.

It also said Labour had mistakenly included more than 50,000 pupils who were in state-funded schools or too young to be affected, and added 20 per cent to even the most expensive fees — yet these are typically for boarding schools, and accommodation is exempt from VAT. A Labour source said the party "does not recognise the numbers cited in this report".

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Weight-loss jabs pilot scheme

far less intensive lifestyle support and with assistance from pharmacists and apps instead. Between 5,000 and 10,000 people are expected to be recruited in an attempt to build evidence that would allow the medicines to be offered to more people.

Sunak said: "Obesity puts huge pressure on the NHS. Using the latest drugs to support people to lose weight will be a game-changer by helping to tackle dangerous obesity-related health conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer — reducing pressure on hospitals, supporting people to live healthier and longer lives and helping to deliver on my priority to cut NHS

waiting lists." Ministers under pressure to get people back to work are also planning to use the trial to measure whether those who use the drugs are more likely to stay in employment or find new jobs.

Companies are struggling with a million vacancies, while 2.5 million people of working age are on long-term sickness benefits — a figure predicted to rise to 3.7 million by 2028.

While health chiefs have repeatedly argued that spending on prevention of ill health will save money down the line, the Treasury has been sceptical.

Whitty's team and the chief economist at the Treasury will build evidence on which treatment and public health measures could save the government money while Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, seeks to find headroom for tax

cuts in the autumn. The OBR will also have to be convinced. Mel Stride, the work and pensions secretary, said last month that the spending watchdog was "the start and end of everything" in government, adding that it set "a very high bar" for claims that schemes would save money.

Wegovy, which is given as a weekly injection, is not yet available in the UK after its launch was delayed so that Novo Nordisk, the manufacturer of both that drug and Ozempic, could build up its stocks. Ministers have held talks with the company, arguing that using its drug to build evidence in the NHS will promote the medicine around the world. Tirzepatide, a similar drug that is made by Eli Lilly, could also be included in the trial.



# Black stars incur Egypt's wrath

Exhibition is the latest target of anger in Cairo over portrayals of the country's ancient rulers, **Bruno Waterfield** writes

More than 3,000 years ago Queen Nefertiti was the "lady of all women". Today, Queen Bey, as Beyoncé is otherwise known, could be described as the monarch for all the single ladies.

Egyptian officials, however, appear to have finally grown tired of comparisons between the chief consort of the pharaoh Akhenaten and a musician who dressed as Nefertiti at the Coachella festival in 2018 and sold merchandise dedicated to the Egyptian queen.

They have banned Dutch archaeologists from the country in a dispute over an exhibition that portrays black American singers, performers and musicians as the rulers of ancient Egypt.

In the latest battle in a culture war over the representation of ancient Egypt's civilisation as black and African, the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities (RMO) in Leiden incurred the wrath of Cairo over its exhibition, entitled *Kemet*, meaning the "black land".

It explores the ancient civilisation through jazz, soul and funk music to show the "significance of ancient Egypt and Nubia in the work of musicians from the African diaspora".

It features portrayals of Beyoncé and Rihanna as Nefertiti, and representations of the pharaohs, including the American rapper Nas as Tutankhamun and Eddie Murphy as Ramesses. It comes after an international row over the Netflix casting of Adele James, a black British star, as Cleopatra.

"In Egyptology, the science that deals with ancient Egypt, Egypt has long been studied primarily as part of the Mediterranean region," the museum said, "but many musicians with African roots emphasise that ancient Egypt is an African culture".

Charges of "falsifying history" and an "Afrocentric" approach have led to Egypt's antiquities service banning Dutch archaeologists from the important Saqqara burial ground near Cairo, which is home to the earliest pyramids.

Egypt's El Fagr news-



Eddie Murphy as a pharaoh in a Michael Jackson video, Beyoncé as Nefertiti and, above, an exhibition advert

paper said the exhibition was "highly provocative and requires an explanation" against charges of "support for Afrocentric ideas that try to rob the ancient Egyptian civilisation of its people".

"Should they have made it clear that

the exhibition is about non-Egyptian African musicians? This is consistent with history, reality and logic, as they were not and will not be Egyptians," Hossam Zidan, the archaeology correspondent, wrote.

Wim Weijland, the museum director, hit back, complaining that no Egyptian official had even attended the exhibition.

"The accusation of falsifying history

is inappropriate. This exhibition has been made with great care. As scientists, you don't accuse each other like this. I want that qualification to be withdrawn," he told the NRC Handelsblad newspaper.

The RMO has been active in excavations in Sakkara, near Cairo, since 1975 and the ban will hit a major dig. "We won't make any apologies and we won't change the exhibition. I'm willing to

## Analysis

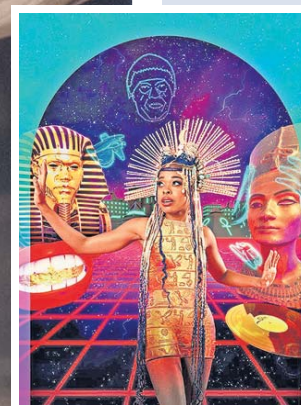
University College London researchers found that objectivity about the origins of the pharaonic empires "remains elusive" (Jack Blackburn writes).

DNA evidence has only recently been possible. In 2017, a Nature Communications paper provided genetic analysis, suggesting that there was an increase in sub-Saharan DNA during the much later Roman period. But the DNA was taken from three mummies whose ages spanned 1,300 years, so is unreliable, at best. These unfillable gaps leave room for speculation and acrimony.

Ultimately, the question is not about race but ownership.

Ancient Egyptian history was a plaything for Europeans and is now the basis for powerful imagery in pop culture.

Cairo appears to be growing tired of other people laying claim to their heritage.



add a sign with Egyptian commentary, but they'll have

to come and see it first," said Weijland.

Daniel Soliman, the exhibitions curator, who is half-Egyptian, attributed the reaction to growing nationalism in Egypt and anti-black racism. "Of course there is the fact that ancient Egypt has often been spoken about without involving contemporary Egyptians, especially from the West. That is still very sensitive," he said.

While the historical evidence shows that ancient Egyptians were black-skinned as well as brown or Mediterranean in appearance, the word *Kemet* relates to the River Nile's rich, black soil rather than ethnicity, an alien concept to its culture.

Theories that Egypt was a black African civilisation are popular in the US and a 1991 music video — *Remember the Time* by Michael Jackson, including Murphy as a pharaoh — is one of the best known references.

"Ancient Egypt and Nubia have been an irrefutable source of inspiration for musicians from the African diaspora," the RMO exhibition notes. "The artists embrace and claim these ancient African cultures to express resistance, empowerment and spiritual healing."

## Wood carving from building site is a chip off a very old block

**Jack Blackburn** History Correspondent

Derek Fawcett had just started digging the foundations for his new workshop when construction was delayed by the discovery of a not inconsiderable piece of wood. It was an inconvenience that turned out to be one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the decade.

It is lucky, then, that Fawcett, a retired urological surgeon, was a member of the local history society and realised that the finding was manmade. He cleaned it up and passed it on to Historic England which, after four

years of tests, has said it is the oldest piece of carved wood ever to be found in Britain.

The 6,000-year-old piece of timber was found in Boxford, Berkshire, and it pre-dates Stonehenge by two millennia. It had been preserved by an accident of nature before being discovered at a small building site in an area of low archaeological interest.

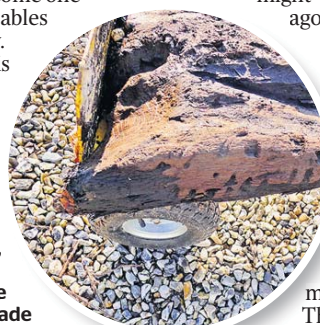
The Boxford Timber has decorative markings on it made by human hands, and it is 95 per cent certain that the late mesolithic/early neolithic piece dates to between 4,640-4,605 BC.

With its age established, the question

is why it was carved in this fashion. This matter looks set to become one of the great imponderables of British archaeology.

"The Boxford piece is quite eroded, but has these definite ten notches you can see and possible other markings which might be decoration," Gill Campbell, of Historic England,

The wood is one of the discoveries of the decade



said. "It's a tantalising glimpse of what it might have been 6,000 years ago."

There are strikingly few pieces with which the Boxford Timber can be compared. It would have rotted had it not been preserved in peat. Although wood was the main material of the era, few pieces of it survive from the mesolithic.

The carvings on the piece

are reminiscent of those on the Shigir Idol, though it would be incredible if the two were connected. The idol was found in the Urals and, at 12,500 years old, is thought to be the oldest example of carved wood in the world. It is possible that the markings were part of a decorative tradition and, if so, it would appear that the style endured as later Neolithic pottery has similar designs.

Fawcett has decided to donate the timber, which was found in 2019, to the local West Berkshire Museum in Newbury. The announcement has been made this week to coincide with Museums Week.



## News Prince in court

## Harry recounts life's struggle

Ben Ellery

Running to 55 pages and 25,538 words, the Duke of Sussex's witness statement gives an intimate account of his life and builds on the tell-all biography he released in January.

The statement traces significant events in his life along with how they were reported by Mirror Group newspapers.

It reveals his fears about how the titles obtained stories about him, attributing it to phone hacking rather than other forms of newsgathering.

When it was found that articles were written as a result of statements and details provided by the Palace, he instead concludes that "the institution" issued the bulletins in response to journalists' inquiries.

## ETON

The prince was "extremely worried" he was going to be expelled after an article in the News of the World revealed that he had smoked cannabis. He said: "This article ... had a huge impact on my life."

A follow-up story in the Daily Mirror said his friends were taking Ecstasy and cocaine at the party where he had smoked marijuana.

The piece revealed that his father was "worried sick" but "hugely relieved" when he found out the drug he had taken was cannabis.

He added that "it is not clear to me" where the quotes were obtained. He said: "There's also a quote from an unidentified 'family' source, that said I realised I had been a 'bloody fool' and that I had been 'sucked into this set of people in their twenties'."

"I'm at a loss as to who would have said that. That's certainly not something I was saying to anyone."

The duke also highlighted a 2003 Mirror article about him leading cadets at an Eton parade.

He said: "Even though I was proud to have been given the opportunity, I would not have been enthusiastic about any suggestions of publicising it for fear of a backlash, like I wasn't deserving or had been given the role because of who I am."

He suggested that a statement issued by the Palace about the achievement was in response to journalists' inquiries because: "It's my recollection that announcements regarding matters such as this weren't commonplace."

## DIANA'S 'PARANOIA'

The prince said he understood why his mother was fearful of the media. He said: "I've always heard people refer to my mother as paranoid, but she wasn't. She was fearful of what was actually happening to her and now I know that I was the same."

He claimed that articles about him as a teenager made him feel constantly suspicious of those close to him, including Tiggy Legge-Bourke, his former nanny, and his friend Mark Dyer, known to Harry as Marko.

Harry said: "My brother and I even stopped talking to Marko for a long period of time. I can see how much of my life was wasted on this paranoia."

At one point the prince said it was "reasonable to assume" that an article about Legge-Bourke had been obtained by hacking because of an invoice to a freelancer for £85 made 15 months previously.

## PAUL BURRELL

Harry was said to have described Burrell, the trusted butler of Diana, Princess of Wales, who later sold personal items that he claimed she

## Fact check The offending articles



The Duke of Sussex began his privacy claim against tabloid newspapers by asking how much "blood will stain their typing fingers", before struggling to identify any unlawful activities.

Harry claimed a sample of 33 articles were the result of unlawful activity, about half of which were discussed yesterday. The duke was forced to admit repeatedly that many of the articles he said involved hacking were actually from official statements, interviews and follow-ups from other newspapers.

He described his distress at intrusion into his private life while refusing to accept he had no direct proof of hacking by the journalists he publicly named. He said the pressure on tabloid journalists meant they would carry out unlawful information gathering.

## "Princes take to the hills for gala"

The Daily Mirror reported in July 2000 that Harry and William decided to go rock climbing in the Lake District rather than attend a gala for the 100th birthday of their great-grandmother, the Queen Mother. Two days earlier Buckingham Palace said the brothers would not be at the gala. Harry accepted this was in the public domain before the article came out.

## "3am — Harry's time at the bar"

Harry's 16th birthday celebrations at a pub owned by the chef Ed Baines in west London was reported in September 2000. Harry said he was unaware Baines was a "self-publicist who talked to the press" or that the article was based on pictures by an agency photographer.

## "Diana so sad on Harry's big day"

Harry was first questioned

about a Daily Mirror article from September 1996 reporting a visit by his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, while he was at Ludgrove prep school on his 12th birthday and how she discussed her divorce. The duke admitted he was



unaware that two days earlier the Press Association news agency reported the planned visit, while his mother had told BBC's *Panorama* she discussed the divorce with her sons. The duke suggested the information came from hacking of his voicemails, but acknowledged in court he did not have a mobile phone until he went to Eton.

## "Snap ... Harry breaks thumb like William"

An "exclusive" article about Harry breaking his thumb in November 2000 had been widely reported the previous day, and included a Palace statement.

## "Harry took drugs" and "Cool it Harry"

A Sunday Mirror article in January 2002 reporting that Harry took drugs was a follow-up from a News of the World investigation with which St James's Palace co-operated. Harry said Mark Bolland, his father's "spin doctor", was behind the Palace statement without his consent or knowledge.

## "No Eton trifles for Harry, 18"

An article about his 18th

birthday was based on an interview he had given two days earlier to the Press Association. He said he did not check if the Daily Mirror article included any extra information as "I leave that to the legal team".

## "Matured Harry is a godfather"

An article in the Sunday People in April 2003 about Harry becoming a godfather to the nephew of his nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, was in The Sunday Telegraph the previous weekend and was sold by a freelance journalist to the tabloid for £250. Harry said: "I see the similarities."

## "Harry to lead cadet's march"

Harry claimed the Daily Mirror received a statement from St James's Palace for an article the same month about him being parade commander at the combined cadet force tattoo at Eton after a journalist unlawfully obtained the information. He acknowledged the Palace statement had appeared in the Daily Mail the previous day.

## "Harry is ready to quit Oz"

A September 2003 article about Harry planning to quit his gap year in Australia was based on a statement by St James's Palace and comments by Mark Dyer, a Palace aide.

## "Wills ... Seeing Burrell is only way to stop him selling more Diana secrets. Harry no ... Burrell's a ..."

Harry acknowledged contradictions between his witness statements about a report in the Sunday People in December 2003 over an argument he had with William about meeting with Paul Burrell, their mother's butler, and his own recent memoir, *Spare*. The duke admitted that he did not know which version of

events was true, as the incident was 20 years ago.

## "When Harry met Daddy ... The biggest danger to wildlife in Africa"

He accepted a Daily Mirror article in December 2004 about Harry meeting the father of his girlfriend Chelsy Davy was based on an article the previous day in The Mail on Sunday.

## "Chelsy is not happy"

A Daily Mirror article the following month about Davy's distress after Harry wore a swastika to a party was based on a story broken two days earlier in The Sun. The anonymous friend quoted was actually Davy's uncle, Paul Davy, the court was told. Harry disputed this.

## "You did what!"

A follow-up story that Harry was being punished by his father by working as labourer on his organic farm was based on a story in The Sun three weeks earlier and an article in The Mail on Sunday two months earlier, the court was told. Harry said he was not aware of the previous reports.

The duke claimed two calls to his father's aide Paddy Harverson were linked to a follow-up story about the swastika party in the Sunday Mirror in February 2005. He said he was unaware one of the calls was from a Daily Mirror executive who ran the newspaper's Pride of Britain awards.

## "Chelsy's gap EIR".

Harry said an article in the Sunday People in April 2005 about Davy planning a gap year was linked to four "suspicious" calls to Harverson's mobile phone. He admitted he was not aware Harverson had made three of the calls on the evening of publication and acknowledged "similarities" with an old Daily Mail story.



had given him, as a "two-faced shit", in a story revealing that Prince William wanted to meet Burrell to ask him to put an end to his interviews with the press about her.

Harry revealed that the brothers differed on their views on how to handle Burrell.

He said: "I had made up my mind about the kind of person I thought Paul was and was firmly against meeting him at this point in my life."

The prince said that the People article, which claimed Harry had condemned Burrell, must have been sourced from voicemail interception, admitting: "I also would have used the phrase 'two-face shit', as is reported and believe this could have been lifted directly from a voicemail I had left."

## CHELSY DAVY

Davy is mentioned 118 times in the statement and the prince blamed the

press attention for her decision to break up with him, saying that ultimately she "made the decision that a royal life was not for her, which was incredibly upsetting for me".

The pair met in Botswana in early 2004 and had an on-off relationship until 2010.

An article in The People reporting his visit to a Spearmint Rhino lap-dancing club in 2006 with fellow Sandhurst cadets claimed Davy "blew her top" and had "let rip in a string of phone calls".

The duke said the story must have come from phone hacking, adding: "I don't think Chelsy did go mad about me going there. We did speak about it over the phone, but I promised her that I hadn't had a lap dance and stayed with the three other cadets that had girlfriends."

After the fancy dress party where Harry wore a Nazi costume, a piece in

the Mirror said Davy "was furious and had given me a 'tongue-lashing down the phone' following allegations that I had been flirting with a brunette at the party".

He said: "I had been immature, I hadn't really thought about my actions and I had made a stupid decision." However, he complained about the press, saying: "My mistakes were being played out publicly."

## SANDHURST

The prince underwent officer training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where he was commissioned as a Cornet into the Blues and Royals, and then the Army Air Corps.

Referring to an article that revealed he gained "a top-grade pass" after "sailing through" the commissioners board assessment, he said: "Even though I was pleased with myself for

my achievements, this is not something I wanted publicised, especially nothing around a 'top-grade' pass for fear of a backlash."

He added: "It was an emotional rollercoaster. Just months before it was made to seem as though I wasn't clever enough to pass the A-levels taken by millions of students across the country, and now I'm achieving the best grades for my choice of career. It feels like the tabloids were looking to find any way to build me up and then knock me down at every chance they had."

He appeared to believe that the story was obtained by nefarious means, despite Clarence House issuing a statement about it. He said: "Announcements such as this were not commonplace, and often the Palace was reacting to stories that had been put to them, rather than them being proactive in releasing information. I

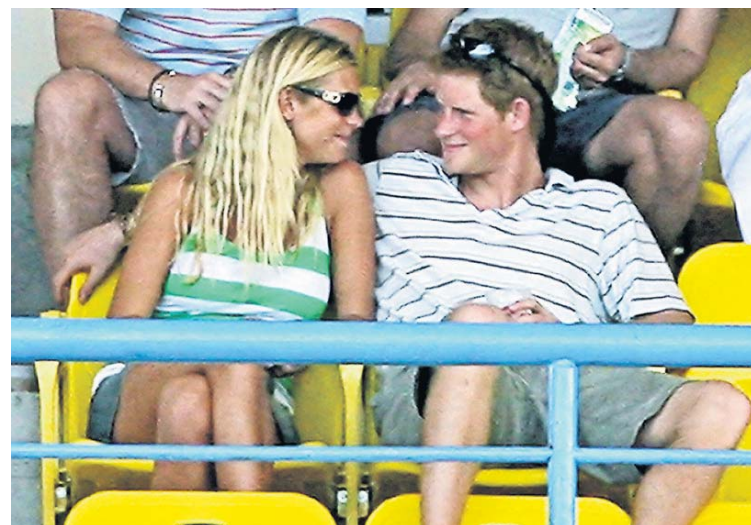


# in the 'suffocating' spotlight

GEORGE CRACKNELL WRIGHT; JULIA QUENZLER/REUTERS; VIANNEY LE CAER/SHUTTERSTOCK; ZUMA PRESS/ALAMY; JEWEL SAMAD/GETTY IMAGES



The photographers outside the High Court were not allowed in – meaning it was up to sketch artists to capture the action. The Duke of Sussex was joined inside by his lawyer, David Sherborne, and several boxes of files. He said the media had scared off his girlfriend Chelsy Davy, below



can't now recall the specific circumstances around this article, and whether there were any discussions in this institution about this."

## AUSTRALIA

Between leaving Eton and attending Sandhurst, the prince worked on an Australian cattle ranch.

The Daily Mirror reported concerns that attention from Australian media at the ranch was so intense that it had left the prince sitting indoors watching videos to avoid TV camera crews.

He said: "The most interesting part of this article for me is the line that I was staying inside 'watching videos' instead of working outside to avoid the camera crews. I'm not sure how they knew what I was doing inside, the whole purpose of me avoiding the cameras was to avoid everyone knowing what I was doing at all

times. It was suffocating. I was only in Australia with a couple of UK bodyguards, so this is the kind of thing I would have moaned about over the phone and in voicemails."

## JAMES HEWITT

The prince highlighted articles about him that claimed there was a plot to steal a sample of his DNA to test his parentage after rumours that his biological father was James Hewitt.

He said: "At the time of this article and others similar to it, I wasn't actually aware that my mother hadn't met Major Hewitt until after I was born. This timeline is something I only learnt of around 2014, although I now understand this was common knowledge among the defendant's journalists."

"At the time, when I was 18 years old and had lost my mother just six years earlier, stories such as this felt

very damaging and very real to me. They were hurtful, mean and cruel."

## PIERS MORGAN

The prince claimed that Morgan, the former editor of the Mirror, had intimidated him and his wife since they launched legal proceedings against the publisher of the newspaper over hacking claims.

Morgan left his job as a presenter on *Good Morning Britain* in 2021 after saying that he did not believe claims made by the Duchess of Sussex during her and Harry's Oprah Winfrey interview.

The duke said: "Both myself and my wife have been subjected to a barrage of horrific personal attacks and intimidation from Piers Morgan, who was the editor of the Daily Mirror between 1995 and 2004, presumably in retaliation and in the hope that I will back down."

## Government is at rock bottom, declares prince

### Continued from page 1

failure, the dropout or, in my case, the thicko, the cheat, the underage drinker, the irresponsible drug-taker ... the list goes on." He added: "I thought that if they are printing this rubbish about me and people were believing it, I may as well 'do the crime', so to speak."

The duke said that journalists were "desperate for anything royal" and "any element of our private lives is interesting to the public". He accused tabloids of inciting "hatred" and "harassment", asking: "How much more blood will stain their typing fingers before some-

one can put a stop to this madness?"

Andrew Green KC, representing Mirror Group Newspapers, told him: "Can I make it clear, Prince Harry, that everybody has enormous sympathy with the enormous press intrusion you have suffered throughout your life. It doesn't necessarily follow that it was the result of unlawful activity."

As Harry insisted that he was the victim of hacking despite having no direct evidence, Green responded: "Are we not, Prince Harry, in the realms of total speculation?"

Harry returns to court today for further questioning. Mirror Group Newspapers says there is "no evidence, or no sufficient evidence, of voicemail interception" in his claim.

Rishi Sunak refused to be drawn on Harry's statement, saying: "We have a longstanding convention that prime ministers don't comment on members of the royal family."



## News Prince in court

# Duke calls on his army training

Harry retained an air of calm during a lengthy interrogation in the High Court, writes **Valentine Low**

As the Duke of Sussex faced his legal adversary across Court Number 15 of the Rolls Building, the Royal Courts of Justice, one thought kept nagging away at those of us who have had the pleasure of reading his memoir, *Spare*: he has been here before, hasn't he?

In the court room, an unglamorous space of strip lights and box files, Prince Harry was being interrogated by the Mirror's barrister, Andrew Green KC.

Now Harry has not faced cross-examination by m'learned friend before and neither, for that matter, has any other senior member of the royal family for more than 100 years. But unlike his predecessor, the future Edward VII, the duke knows how to handle interrogation. He learnt it in the army, although in those days the people grilling him on training exercises wore balaclavas, not horsehair wigs.

So far, the Mirror counsel has not forced Harry to strip naked or adopt the stress position, either. Still, it's early days.

But perhaps Harry may think that the same techniques that stood him in good stead back in his army days will also do the trick in the High Court. The first technique was to talk as quietly as possible at all times.

Whether this was deliberate, or just a subliminal desire on the duke's part to make sure that as few people as possible could hear him — excluding most of all the hated press sitting in the back — is perhaps a moot point. But it was enough to be raised by Harry's own barrister, David Sherborne, who told the court that he had received a number of requests for the duke to speak up. But don't shout, interjected the judge, Mr Justice Fancourt. Or at least, said Green, don't raise your voice in anger. At least they resisted the temptation to call him the hoarse whisperer.

Prince Harry, it has to be said, did not raise his voice in anger.

Throughout a lengthy questioning that might have made others wilt, he managed to keep a sort of calm, scrupulously calling the judge "my lord" whenever he addressed a remark in his direction.

He did have one rock-solid technique in which he clearly put great faith: a simple refusal to accept absolutely anything Green put to him. Because if there is anything that Harry knows, it is that he is right and that nothing that appears in the tabloid press is to be trusted, even if it turns out that it came from a legitimate source.

He is the fervent believer, and anything that contradicts his world view is dismissed out of hand. When, for instance, Green said that the owner of a gastropub in Fulham visited by Harry was someone who, from his press coverage, would seem to be someone who spoke enthusiastically to the press, Harry said: "If those are indeed his quotes."

Time after time, when Harry was asked which bits of an article were the result of illegal activity, the duke would say: "I don't know... you would have to ask the journalist." When the argument was put to him that a Mirror article was in fact based on an article



James Hewitt, Diana's butler Paul Burrell, the nanny Tiggy Legge-Bourke and Harry's friend Guy Pelly all featured

## Key players in the duke's statement

The duke's claims of phone hacking not only concern him but also his closest friends (Poppy Koronka and Ben Ellery write).

There is an array of A-listers and aristocrats in his witness statement and evidence — including Zara Phillips, his cousin; Earl Spencer, his uncle; Hasnat Khan, his mother's lover; Susie Orbach, his mother's therapist; Michael Fawcett, his father's valet; Paddy Harverson, his father's communications secretary; and Guy Pelly, his friend. Here are some of the key players.

**Prince William** William, now first in line to the throne, is no stranger to press intrusion into his private life.

"As brothers, we naturally discussed personal aspects of our lives as we trusted each other with the private information we shared," Harry wrote in his witness statement. "We would

often speak over the phone and regularly left voicemails for one another containing very private information."

**Chelsy Davy** Davy, 37, was Prince Harry's first girlfriend, with the pair dating on-and-off from 2004 until mid-2010. "As my girlfriend, I trusted Chelsy with the most private of information and vice versa," Harry said in his statement.

Chelsy now has a son, Leo, and has founded her own jewellery brand, Aya.

**Mark Dyer** Dyer was a former royal equerry and, according to Harry's witness statement, a "close friend of mine".

Dyer, known as "Marko" throughout the witness statement, travelled with the prince around the world. "He was privy to lots of private and sensitive information about me, my family and the Royal Household," Harry wrote in his statement.

**Paddy Harverson** Harverson was the press secretary of Harry's father,

who was then Prince Charles, from 2004 to 2013, as well as spokesman for Prince William during this period. In his statement, Harry said: "He would have been the first to know if something newsworthy about my brother and/or I had occurred, good or bad."

**Tiggy Legge-Bourke** Legge-Bourke, 58, was Harry's nanny during childhood and is described by him as "a close companion and confidante". He said: "Due to the level of trust between us, I regularly talked to her about things I would not otherwise share outside a close group of friends."

**Guy Pelly** Pelly is a close friend of both Prince William and Harry. Pelly, 41, is a former nightclub manager and is now an entrepreneur. He is godfather to Prince Louis, William's son, and even arranged the heir's stag do. Harry wrote in his statement: "The press were interested in Guy because of his close friendship with

me and my brother," adding that they regularly left voicemails for each other.

**Frances Shand Kydd** Shand Kydd, Harry's maternal grandmother, Princess Diana's mother, died aged 68 in 2004. She married John Spencer, Viscount Althorp, at 18 — a marriage that led to four children and a later divorce and a bitter custody battle. "The press were alas always interested in her, as they were in anyone that spoke regularly with my mother," Harry wrote in his witness statement.

**Paul Burrell** Burrell, 64, was Diana's butler. He went on trial in 2003 for allegedly selling Diana's possessions. After the case collapsed, William had wanted to meet with Burrell, according to reports, as this was "the only way to stop him selling more Diana secrets". Harry disagreed, according to reports at the time, leading to a disagreement between the brothers which was featured in the trial.

## Sky recruits lookalike to replay drama

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Sky News has hit upon a novel way of getting round the ban on cameras in court: a dramatic reconstruction of Prince Harry giving evidence.

The broadcaster has hired an actor to appear as the Duke of Sussex and repeat testimony he has given hours before in the High Court.

Recorded in a specially built studio in Sky's headquarters in Osterley, west London, with the support of a transcription team, a series of clips were collated into an hour-long 9pm show last night called *Harry in Court*.

The programme is presented by Jonathan Samuels and features the clips along with expert analysis.

Harry is played by Laurence Dobiesz, below, who has been in films including *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* and the TV show *Outlander*.

Sky News said the aim was to give audiences an accurate and fair representation of what had happened in court that day, offering greater insight into how a huge case like this unfolded.



clearly has a number of sources in royal circles, Green said. Harry replied: "I wouldn't necessarily call them sources. Judging by a lot of what he has written, might be imaginary sources. Reliability to be taken with a pinch of salt."

There was, Harry implied, nothing journalists would stop at. He claimed that "a lot of false information" was put into articles "to put people like myself off the scent". This, he said, was done to "cover up the true unlawful means", and although some elements were true they were "clouded, shrouded" by the parts that were untrue.

Discussing a Mirror article from November 2000 about an injury to Harry's thumb, Green asked whether the duke was aware that the information had been reported by the Press Association the previous day. No, Harry said, he was not aware of it. But he still believed that information in the Mirror article, including a claim that doctors had told him he could not play football for a few weeks, had been obtained through unlawful means.

Asked whose phone he believed had been hacked to get the information, he said: "The doctor's? I am not sure." Green asked, "Are you not in the realms of total speculation?", and Harry replied: "No, I do not believe so."

As interrogations go, it was long, relentless and taxing, an endless examination of newspaper articles that most people have long forgotten.

Indeed, Harry appeared to have forgotten many of them. When questioned, he was unable to remember when he had first read them.

At one point the judge briefly adjourned the trial at the request of an unnamed participant, who turned out to be Harry himself, who swiftly popped out to use the lavatory. Outside he was mobbed by fans shouting "We love you Harry" and "We love Meghan". It was, on every level, a welcome break.

published earlier by another newspaper, he said simply: "I can see the similarities."

As Green repeatedly questioned Harry on

what evidence he had that the Mirror's articles had been based on illegal news-gathering techniques — when everything else seemed to suggest that they were based on interviews, briefings, press releases and previous articles — Harry was not fazed.

He was a man on a mission,

to wield the sword of truth against the tabloid press and their wicked ways.

Asked by Green about an article written by the Evening Standard's veteran royal correspondent Robert Jobson, described by Green as a specialist, Harry replied with withering scorn: "A specialist?" Well, someone who



Interrogator: Andrew Green



# Packham: Risk arrest for climate

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Chris Packham has called for a “tornado of change” to tackle the climate crisis and questioned whether peaceful protests make enough of a difference.

The TV presenter, a donor to the Just Stop Oil campaign, is preparing to host a Channel 4 documentary provisionally titled *Is it Time to Break the Law?*

The show, which will air this summer, sees Packham assesses the impact of imprisoning protesters and asks whether more people should risk arrest.

“Peaceful protest has been a cornerstone of activism, but we must question whether it is enough,” he said. “The time for complacency has long passed. It is up to us to drive a tornado of change that cannot be ignored.”

Policymakers had consistently failed to adequately address the issue, he said. “Scientists, activists and naturalists like myself have been delving deep into ... the climate crisis for decades, shedding light on the disheartening reality that governments continue to fall short on their environmental promises.”

The programme will explore the view held by some activists that they must follow the example of Mahatma Gandhi, repeatedly imprisoned for defying British laws. Last month Packham, 62, told *The Times* he found the 2½-year jail sentences given to two Just Stop Oil protesters for climbing Dartford Crossing bridge “disproportionate”.

The documentary is part of a climate change season on Channel 4.

● The Arctic may experience its first ice-free summer as soon as the 2030s, a decade earlier than had been expected, a team of scientists from Canada, Germany and South Korea have found, a milestone that will have big ramifications both for people and wildlife. Previously the region was not expected to be ice-free in summer until 2050. The study was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.



Tiers of joy Joana Vasconcelos presents her 12m-high Wedding Cake sculpture at Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire

# Migrants will be housed on cruise ships

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Migrants are set to be housed on former cruise ships for the first time in the UK as part of the government's efforts to slash the cost of use of hotels.

Rishi Sunak announced on Monday that the government had procured two new vessels to house 1,000 migrants, in addition to a barge that will accommodate 504 off the Dorset coast. Last night Dorset council backed down over its opposition to Home Office plans to dock the barge at Portland Port.

The Home Office confirmed that the vessels are small cruise ships, but has not disclosed their names or locations. It has been in discussions with the Peel Group, which runs a port near Birkenhead, and Teesside is understood to be another location under consideration.

Meanwhile, Border Force officials warned that police patrolling French beaches risk being killed amid increasing signs of violence from migrants attempting to cross the Channel. They attributed the aggression to an improvement in the rate of interceptions by the French police, with migrants who have made several attempts becoming frustrated and turning to violence.

Figures disclosed by Border Force earlier this week revealed that the French are now intercepting more than half of attempted crossings for the first time since the small boats crisis began in 2018. It follows the £480 million deal struck between the UK and France in March that is paying for an increase in the number of French officers dedicated to patrolling the beaches from 200 to 700 over the course of this year.

Border Force also revealed the changing tactics of people smugglers, who are increasingly instructing migrants not to make their way to northern France until hours before their boats are due to be launched. “That’s why the French aren’t just staying on the beach,” an official said.

# Yoga may stretch cancer-free living

Kat Lay Health Editor

Doctors should prescribe yoga classes to cancer survivors to cut their chances of relapse, attendees at a global cancer conference were told.

Telling patients with the disease to take it easy is detrimental, leading scientists also said, after trials linked daily 30-minute walks and exercise classes to lower rates of post-cancer problems such as fatigue, as well as a lower risk of cancer returning and death.

Taking two yoga classes a week for a month significantly cut inflammation in patients who had recovered from cancer, according to one study from a US team. The researchers told the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s annual meeting in Chicago: “Clinicians should consider prescribing yoga for survivors experiencing inflammation, which may lead to [...] increased risk of progression, recurrence and second cancers.”

The study, at the University of Rochester, New York state, involved more than 500 patients, mainly women who had recovered from breast cancer. They were asked either to take part in two weekly 75-minute sessions of gentle yoga for four weeks, or spend the same amount of time in health education sessions on how to care for themselves.

## Behind the story

**I**nflammation is part of the response to infection or injury (Kat Lay writes). It can be short-lived, as when a cut or sore throat needs healing, but “chronic” when it continues for a long time without an obvious immediate threat.

It has been described as a silent killer, linked to health problems from arthritis to cancer, cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. At least half of deaths

globally are from diseases linked to inflammation.

It appears to have an impact on mental as well as physical health. People with depression have been found to have more inflammation in their bodies. In cancer specifically, higher levels of inflammation appear linked to relapse rates.

That is why the team behind this latest study on yoga lowering inflammatory markers in the blood are excited. They found that a short

“dose” of only eight sessions of gentle yoga, delivered over the course of a month, significantly reduced inflammation.

Earlier research from the same team had found that people taking the yoga course after cancer treatment did better on measures such as fatigue and insomnia than those given nothing, but it was not clear whether the yoga itself was doing something, or whether people were simply motivated to get out of

the house and meet with others twice a week.

This research compares yoga with another course that delivered the social element, and found yoga to be superior. It also pinpoints a plausible biological mechanism for the improvements.

Other studies have found that inflammation can be kept in check with weight management, exercise, alcohol (in moderation), a healthy diet and sleep.

Blood samples were taken before and after the four weeks, revealing significantly lower levels of inflammation markers in the blood of the yoga group than in the education group.

Karen Mustian, the lead researcher, said that other studies had shown yoga helped cancer patients with problems such as insomnia and her team had set out to learn more about the biology behind it. “The basic take-home story is

that inflammatory chemicals were lowered by the yoga,” she said. “Inflammation underlies virtually everything that we don’t want to see in cancer. So it underlies the cancer itself. It underlies long-term toxicities, like insomnia, fatigue, cardiotoxicity.”

She said the yoga was gentle hatha and restorative yoga, with poses that could be modified for patients who found it hard to stand. The researchers

will follow up participants to see if lowering inflammation translates into improved survival rates.

Mustian said that 20 years ago there had been a tendency to think cancer patients should take it easy, but a poll

of oncologists at this week’s conference found 80 per cent would recommend exercise to cancer patients. Dr Melissa Hudson, an expert in cancer survival from St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, said: “Oncologists need to be telling their patients that yes, it is important for you to be as active as you can withstand, based on your current symptoms.”

Another study found patients who were physically active at the time of a cancer diagnosis were significantly less likely to die within six months. Brazilian researchers looked at 2,692 cancer patients aged over 60. After 180 days, 90 per cent of patients who had some level of physical activity were still alive, compared with 74

per cent of sedentary patients. The lead researcher, Dr Jurema Telles de Oliveira Lima, from the Instituto de Medicina Integral Professor Fernando Figueira in Recife, Brazil, said: “Even if you are limited you should spend less time sitting ... a bag that you lift at the supermarket can be helpful.”





## News Politics

# Sunak seeks new alliance with US in changing world

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Britain is seeking a military-style “economic alliance” with the US to counter the rise of China and the threat of artificial intelligence.

Rishi Sunak will arrive in Washington today seeking “economic interoperability” as he appears to align himself with President Biden’s drive for a more interventionist industrial policy to retain western control of vital technology.

Sunak will spend two days in Washington, and is expected to meet congressional and business leaders as well as coming face-to-face with Biden for a fourth time this year, seeking to build on their personal relationship and prove that Britain is a global power.

Greater western support for Ukraine and the candidacy of Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, to become the next Nato secretary-general are also expected to be on the agenda, alongside the prime minister’s plan for regulating AI.

Despite previous British criticism of “protectionist” US efforts to subsidise green technology, Sunak will use the meeting with Biden to signal acceptance of the president’s effort to reject the laissez-faire economic policies of recent decades. Before his arrival in the US, Sunak set out an ambition for a deeper economic integration modelled on the decades-long military co-operation between the two countries.

“As the challenges and threats we face change, we need to build an alliance that also protects our economies,” he said. “Just as interoperability between our militaries has given us a battlefield advantage ... greater economic interoperability will give us a crucial edge in the decades ahead.”

Biden is pouring \$369 billion into a green subsidy package designed to revitalise former industrial heartlands and challenge the Chinese control of tech-

## Baseball game offer batted away

Chris Smyth

For Downing Street aides, it must have seemed like the chance for the prime minister to wow Washington. For Rishi Sunak though, there was always the risk — as with so many previous British attempts to impress the US with a show of strength — of falling humiliatingly short.

Sunak has rejected the suggestion of throwing the first pitch at a baseball game he will attend today while on a visit to Washington.

No 10 denied suggestions that he had chickened out of an American tradition undertaken by almost every US president for more than a century, saying a former British serviceman was the “most appropriate choice”.

nology central to the world’s push towards net zero.

With the EU preparing to respond, this has led to concerns that Britain would be left out as Sunak is resisting an expensive UK subsidy package.

Instead he is hoping to strike a deal on critical minerals that would allow UK companies that export electric vehicles to the US to benefit from some of the tax credits available under Biden’s divisive Inflation Reduction Act.

He will also align Britain with the US vision of “friendshoring”, in which democratic nations integrate key technology to avoid dependence on China.

Sunak said that “by combining our

vast economic resources and expertise, we will grow our economies, create jobs and keep our people safe”.

Downing Street said the goal was “not about protectionism” but moving on from past arrangements to protect the global economy. However, it remains unclear how Britain fits into the US vision of friendly countries specialising in mutually complementary technology, nor whether the countries agree on what UK strengths should be.

A spokesman said the prime minister wanted transatlantic co-operation to cover “everything from protecting our supply chains and insulating our economies against manipulation from hostile states, to increasing our mutual investment in green technology, to governing the development and use of AI”.

The spokesman said Sunak wanted to discuss a global AI watchdog based in London, as well as an international research effort modelled on Cern, the particle physics collaboration. “The issues affect all of us and so we want to work together to find a global solution,” he added. It comes after Matt Clifford, Sunak’s AI adviser, warned that AI would be powerful enough to “kill many humans” within two years.

The Times revealed last month that high-level government analysis argued that the UK should adopt a more interventionist approach in response to Biden’s subsidy plan and ambition to control key technologies. A decision document for ministers also recommended Britain accept “greater use of industrial policy to pursue economic security”.

Sunak has made close alignment with the US a guiding principle of his foreign policy and his remarks suggest he accepted the arguments.

**Microsoft scoffs at AI fears, page 16**  
**Deadly danger of AI, letters, page 24**  
**Chinese meddling overseas must be curtailed, leading article, page 25**

## What he wants from Washington

### Relevance

The prime minister’s most basic goal is to show that Britain remains an important and reliable global player after the chaos of last year and scepticism about Brexit in the US Democratic establishment. The fact of the visit, accompanied by images of Sunak alongside Biden at the White House and warm words about their personal relationship in their fourth meeting in as many months, will go a long way.

**Chances of success 4/5**

### Artificial intelligence

Sunak will pitch a plan for global rules about the development of AI, with No 10 saying it was “a topic he wants to discuss with the

president”. As well as a global summit on AI in London, Sunak wants a watchdog modelled on the International Atomic Energy Agency and a global research collaboration. While open to discussions, it is unclear whether the US is interested in Sunak’s plan for global structures, given its domestic focus.

**Chances of success 2/5**

### US subsidies and protections for car makers

The threat posed by the US \$369 billion green subsidy package has alarmed many in government, with particular fears that Britain’s £4.3 billion in car exports to the US could be destroyed. Sunak wants a critical minerals deal that would allow UK electric vehicle makers to benefit from 50 per cent of the US tax credits on offer. No 10 said that Biden had signalled willingness for “further co-operation on critical minerals”, but there is

acknowledgement this will not undo all of the damage done to UK firms.

**Chances of success 3/5**

### China and the world economy

A wider plan to “protect key industries and safeguard supply chains against threats, including from hostile states” will see Sunak align himself with the US vision of a world where the critical technologies of the future are protected against Chinese dominance. However, questions remain about Britain’s role in this vision of “friend-shoring” production of chips, solar panels and other technologies to democracies with complementary specialisms.

**Chances of success 4/5**

### Ukraine

Britain has been Kyiv’s chief cheerleader and Sunak will be pressing Biden for further military support, including beefing up Ukraine’s Patriot missile system. President

Zelensky’s desire for western fighter jets may also be discussed, as well as how to encourage other countries to do more. With both countries in agreement on backing Ukraine, symbolic pledges of continued assistance are a certainty.

**Chances of success 5/5**

### Ben Wallace

Sunak is touting the defence secretary as the next secretary-general of Nato when a successor to Jens Stoltenberg is chosen this summer, pointing to his early backing of Ukraine and Britain’s status as one of the few countries to meet the target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence. But he faces opposition from France and others in Europe who are pushing Mette Frederiksen, the Danish prime minister, who has already met Biden this week, and would satisfy a widespread desire for a first female secretary-general.

**Chances of success 2/5**



## Quentin Letts Phantom parliament crushes one of its own

Political Sketch



**M**argaret Ferrier (Ind, Rutherglen & Hamilton West) was present to hear sentence passed. Ferrier is the one who during the pandemic took a train to Scotland while she had the plague. Police investigated, Ferrier was given 270 hours of community payback and was booted out of the SNP. Now that convocation of saints known as the Commons standards

committee had proposed a further punishment: suspension for 30 days. This was approved by 185 votes to 40.

As her former friends gaily skipped up the steps towards the “aye” lobby, Ferrier looked stressed and shrunk. Seeing the old goose’s misery, two MPs went to sit next to her and offer friendly support. One was Carol Monaghan (SNP, Glasgow North West). The other was Andrew Selous (C, South West Bedfordshire), second Church Estates Commissioner. You do not often see a Tory MP on those benches but Selous was putting kindness above custom. Yes, Ferrier had erred and strayed. She had done





**Into the danger zone** James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, meeting workers from the Halo Trust in Hrebeky, near Kyiv, where he took control of a de-mining vehicle. Left: Rishi Sunak with political reporters on the plane to America. Zelensky denounces Putin over dam, page 26



what she ought not to have done. But it is ugly to see a lone soul shunned by the herd. I have sometimes thought Selous a bit wet but by refusing to bow to fashionable obloquy, he showed himself a brick. The vote's result was announced. Ferrier, below, tugged at her fingers. Her crumpled face gave an "och well" expression. Selous and Monaghan offered consoling words and with that, Ferrier took her leave, making sure to bow one last time to the chair.

It was another dud day. This is a phantom parliament. The Commons chamber opened at 11.30am and shut at 2.20pm. In that time all stages of the British Nationality (Regularisation of Past Practice) Bill sailed through an ill-attended house. No statements. No urgent questions. On Monday the house debated backbench business. Today will see a second-rank PMQs — Rishi Sunak is off to America — and opposition day debates. Tomorrow will offer further



backbench business. On Friday the house will not sit. The place is deserted. Many MPs have plainly absconded for the week. Jammy devils.

Sparkiest thing was Sir Bill Cash's European scrutiny committee, normally a gluey gathering. Kemi Badenoch, trade secretary, turned up at the sixth time of asking.

She was pressed about the bonfire of EU laws, not as big a pyre as Brexiteers wished. David Jones (C, Clwyd West) tried to bite her head off. Instead, she bit off his. Did it quite surgically. Badenoch, 43, got into trouble last month by being snooty with the Commons but in a committee she has a formidable briskness. At one point she told the septuagenarian Jones "it's not 1970 any more". Puncturing.

Beside her sat two male mandarins. One chose not to wear a tie. That's a first. As the meeting ended, and Jones tried to stick his head back on his shoulders, Badenoch gave a trilling "thangyew"

to the committee. There are few flies on Kemi.

At the culture committee, under its underwhelming new chairwoman Dame Caroline Dinenage, the culture secretary, Lucy Frazer, was speaking seamless tapioca: sugared, milky filler. In Westminster Hall they were blethering about "reaching net zero by 2050". If it doesn't happen, I may not be around to say "told you so".

Meanwhile, Dan Carden (Lab, Liverpool Walton) explained to the Commons that some hospitals and care homes are still refusing to let patients be visited by their families. Liberties seized during Covid have not been returned. As Carden argued, this was monstrous. Helen Whately, a health minister, nodded. MPs on all sides concurred. The public gallery contained numerous spectators who plainly agreed. Yet officialdom sails on unimpeded. Carden said a new law was needed. Actually, what is needed is for NHS martinets to stop being so horrible. But with parliament inert, who will tell them?

# Johnson's phone will be reactivated for Covid inquiry

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Government security experts are to re-activate a hacked phone belonging to Boris Johnson to try to extract the WhatsApp messages he sent and received during the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

The phone was switched off in 2021 amid fears it had been compromised by Israeli spy software, with advice that it should never be turned back on. But yesterday the Covid inquiry revealed that it had reached a deal with the Cabinet Office to hand the phone over to the "appropriate personnel in government for its contents to be downloaded".

The phone is believed to contain messages relating to the government's initial response to the pandemic, which had been demanded by the inquiry. The analysis of the phone is likely to be carried out by GCHQ.

The move came as Baroness Hallett, the inquiry's chairwoman, told the government she would not back down in her demand to see full unredacted messages sent between ministers and officials during the crisis.

The Cabinet Office has submitted a legal challenge to the inquiry, arguing that it should be allowed to redact messages it does not consider relevant to the remit. But at a hearing on Monday, Hallett said it was "for the inquiry chair to decide what is relevant or potentially relevant".

She said: "The Cabinet Office disagrees, claiming they are not obliged to disclose what they consider to be unambiguously irrelevant material. They invited me to withdraw the Section 21 notice. I declined.

"They are now challenging my decision to decline to withdraw the notice in the High Court by way of judicial review."

Cross-examining

**Boris Johnson was told never to reuse the phone**

Nicholas Chapman, the Cabinet Office lawyer, Hallett asked whether the government intended to try to redact messages recovered from Johnson's phone.

She also asked what the government's position was on notebooks and messages that Johnson had promised to pass to the inquiry in unredacted form. "The position is that the Cabinet Office is working out its position," Chapman replied. Hallett said she was giving the department until the end of the week to confirm its position.

The hearing heard from Hugo Keith KC, the inquiry's counsel, who said government departments were taking contradictory approaches to releasing unredacted messages. He said that whereas the Foreign Office had joined the Cabinet Office in sending redacted WhatsApp messages to the inquiry, the health department had provided full disclosure.

"It may be worth pointing out that the Department of Health and Social Care has to date provided much fuller disclosure [than the Cabinet Office], including [Matt] Hancock's WhatsApp messages, without any redactions at all," he said.

Keith also said it was "regrettable" that the Cabinet Office had been slow to respond to a request for information and messages that had been posted on the Google Spaces platform used by officials during the pandemic to co-ordinate government policy.

Work was only just beginning to extract the messages, Keith said, adding: "We maintain that material . . . must be provided to the inquiry without redactions."

But Keith said progress had been made in accessing the phone Johnson used during his first two years as prime minister.

Keith said that agreement had been reached to hand the phone to government security experts and he expected that the full messages would be made available.



# Poll suggests former PM would hang on to seat

Oliver Wright

Boris Johnson would survive an effort to oust him from his Uxbridge & South Ruislip seat if a by-election were triggered by the parliamentary inquiry into the Downing Street parties scandal, new polling has suggested.

The former prime minister faces a fight for re-election if the privileges committee finds he misled MPs, and the Commons suspends him for more than ten days.

However, a poll in the constituency by the Conservative peer Lord Ashcroft found that if there were a by-election tomorrow, Johnson would win with 50 per cent of the vote.

In an article for the Conservative Home website, Ashcroft said that, although the poll should be treated with caution, there were "good reasons" to expect Johnson to survive.

He said that almost 40 per cent of voters polled believed Johnson had been either a good or a great MP,

against 26 per cent who thought he had been a bad or terrible one. By a similar margin they thought he had been a good prime minister, and 31 per cent said that the country had been "better off with Johnson as prime minister".

The privileges committee is considering new evidence of lockdown rule-breaking, passed to it and the police by the Cabinet Office. Johnson has denied the new allegations. The committee is expected to produce a draft report within a month, and Johnson will have a chance to comment on it.

If the committee finds against him and MPs suspend Johnson for more than ten days, a recall petition will be activated, allowing 10 per cent of voters signing a petition to call a by-election.

Yesterday a recall petition was triggered after MPs voted to suspend the SNP MP Margaret Ferrier for 30 days for breaching Covid rules. Ferrier holds Rutherglen & Hamilton West with a 5,200 majority, and Labour is confident that it can take the seat.





DANNY LAWSON/PA

Circle of life Dr Rebecca Bennion displays 180 million-year-old ammonites before the Yorkshire Fossil Festival in Whitby

## Starmer: new jobs for fossil fuel workers

**Henry Zeffman**  
Associate Political Editor

Sir Keir Starmer has vowed not to let areas reliant on jobs in the oil and gas industries “wither” like coalmining communities after criticism of his plan to ban new licences for production.

The GMB union has led the opposition to Labour’s pledge to stop extraction in the North Sea, while allowing

existing projects to continue until 2050. Gary Smith, its general secretary, said the proposal displayed a “lack of intellectual rigour and thinking”.

Addressing the union’s conference in Brighton yesterday, Starmer defended the policy, insisting new jobs would be created in the same parts of the country. “Oil and gas are going to be part of the mix for decades to come,” he added.

Starmer was responding to a trade

unionist who warned that communities would be “decimated” by the end of production in the North Sea. He replied: “What I will never let happen is a repeat of coalmining, where an industry came to an end, nobody had planned for the future and we’re still living with the consequences.”

Starmer also defended plans for investment in green energy. He will unveil his green “mission” next week.

## Telegraph firm in financial turmoil

**Richard Fletcher, James Hurley**

Lloyds Banking Group has threatened to put the parent company of The Daily Telegraph and its sister paper The Sunday Telegraph into administration after the breakdown of talks with the Barclay family, the owners.

A restructuring and advisory group has been lined up as receivers. Sources indicated that insolvency practitioners from the firm could be appointed within days if talks were not resumed and an 11th-hour deal struck.

“It is a well-run, profitable business. There will be a line of people who will want to buy it,” one executive said.

Lloyds inherited loans to the Barclay family after the takeover of Bank of Scotland during the financial crisis. It is understood that the bank has written down the value of the loans in recent years. After years of talks the bank felt it was reaching “the end of the road” in the relationship, a source said.

Alongside Telegraph Media Group and The Spectator magazine, the Barclay family own Very, an online retail business, and in 2020 they sold the Ritz hotel. Telegraph Media Group, the owner of the newspapers, is owned by Press Acquisi-

**Sir Frederick Barclay**  
has long been rumoured  
to want to sell the titles

tions, a company owned by the family and headed by brothers Aidan and Howard Barclay. Press Acquisitions is owned in turn by May Corporation, a Jersey entity controlled by the family. Press Acquisitions is understood to be the entity at risk of receivership.

A Telegraph source said: “This is a family matter. The Telegraph is a successful, profitable business on course to hit one million subscriptions.”

The Barclay twins Sir David and Sir Frederick bought the newspaper group after a bitter bidding battle in 2004. The £665 million they paid at the time was considered high. While Sir David died in 2021, there have long been rumours that they were considering putting the newspapers up for sale.

The most recent accounts for Press Acquisitions show debts to Lloyds of about £65 million. This facility was due to be renewed in September. However, they also record intra-group loans of about £200 million. Lloyds is understood to be exposed to some of this debt.

A spokesman for the Barclay family said: “The loans in question are related to the family’s overarching ownership structure of its media assets. They do not, in any way, affect the operations or financial stability of Telegraph Media Group. The businesses ... continue to trade strongly.”



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A red-eyed, furious woman wearing a dress that resembles one worn by JK Rowling at a film premiere, below, appeared in the Protect the Pride video. Oxfam later edited out the scene

# Oxfam 'depicts JK Rowling as hate figure' in LGBT cartoon

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Oxfam has been branded "utterly shocking" for releasing an anti-trans cartoon character apparently based on JK Rowling.

The charity's animated #ProtectThePride video was issued to mark Pride month. It said it could not "ignore the cruel backdrop" against which LGBT people marked the celebration.

The strip included a woman resembling Rowling, who was wearing a badge saying "Terf" — which stands for "trans-exclusionary radical feminist" and is used as a slur to describe people like the Harry Potter writer.

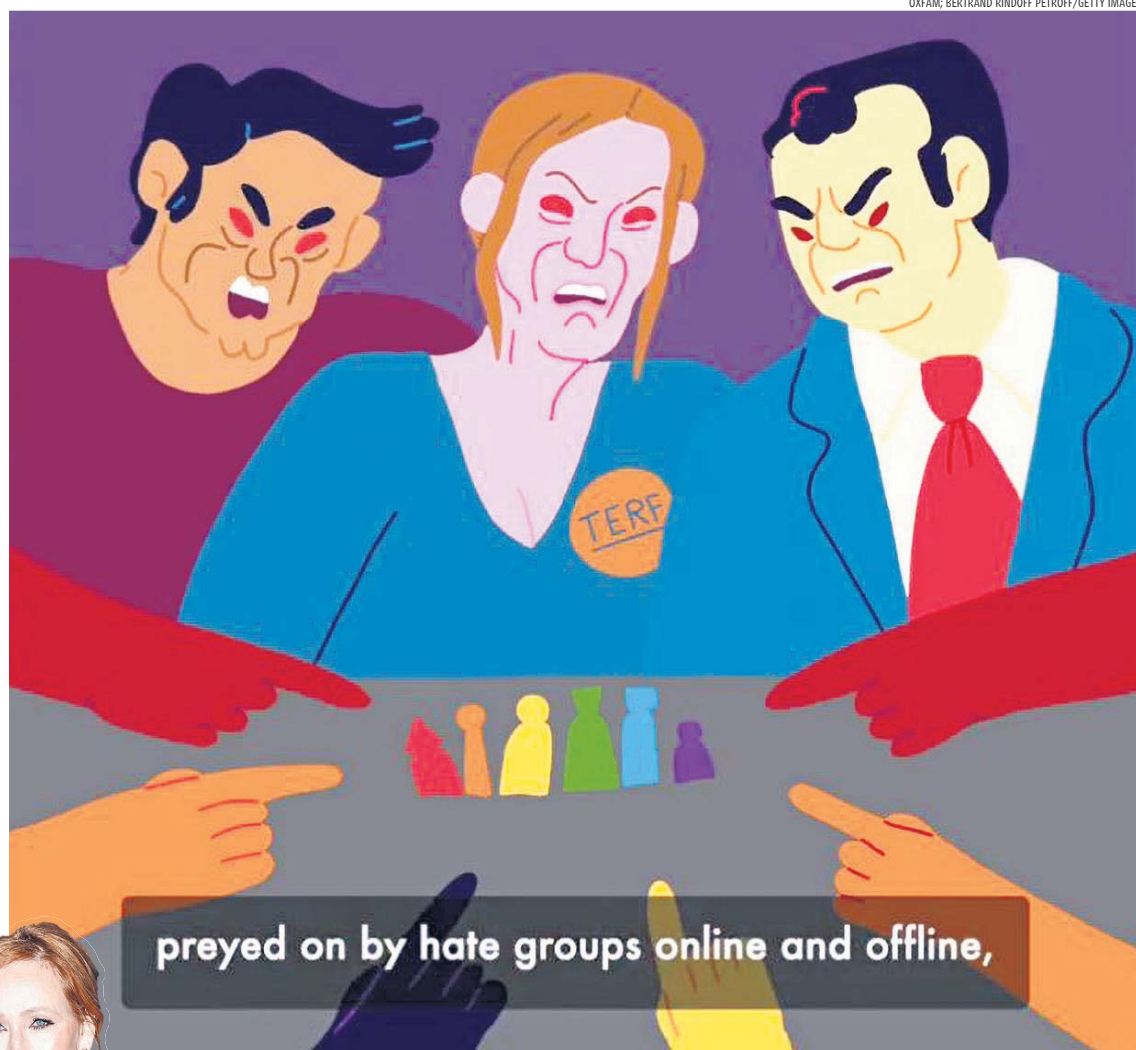
The woman, with blood-red eyes and face contorted in hate, was wearing a green dress — similar to one worn by Rowling at a film premiere — and was looking at the Pride flag. As she appeared on screen, a caption said that

LGBT people were "preyed on by hate groups online and offline".

Activists called for a boycott of Oxfam, saying that they would no longer be making donations. The charity later removed a link to the video. It then republished the clip with the scene removed.

Milli Hill, a feminist author, told The Times: "Oxfam's caricature of an 'ugly hag' wearing a Terf badge is so typical of the attitudes displayed to feminists who stand up for women's rights. We are evil old witches basically, and this is the same old misogyny we've been fighting for decades, repackaged as 'progressive' and 'liberal'."

"It is utterly shocking that an



established global charity like Oxfam would portray women in this way."

The video shared with the charity's millions of supporters was made by the Bangalore-based Falana Films to highlight the "lack of safety" LGBT people feel around the world.

Rowling later liked a tweet criticising the depiction of the cartoon character.

Rowling has denied she is transphobic and says she is campaigning for women's rights and female-only spaces.

The charity has also been accused of hounding out a volunteer who defended Rowling. A former worker, calling herself Maria, said she was accused of transphobia after a colleague asked on an internal message board if Oxfam shops should ban the sale of Rowling's books.

She claimed constructive dismissal and belief discrimination. Following the claim, both parties agreed to settle last July, with Oxfam issuing a public apology for its handling of the process.

Maria told UnHerd: "My life has been torn apart. It drove me to a breakdown, I lost my confidence and, worst of all, I began to doubt myself."

Oxfam denied any intention to portray Rowling in the video.

An Oxfam International spokesman said that it believes all people, including

the LGBT community, should be able to "enjoy their rights and live a life free of discrimination and violence".

They said: "In efforts to make an important point about the real harm caused by transphobia, we made a mistake. We have therefore edited the video to remove the term Terf and we are sorry for the offence it caused."

"There was no intention by Oxfam or the film-makers for this to have portrayed any particular person or people."

In relation to the claim by the former worker, Oxfam added: "We are sorry for the procedural mistakes we made in the handling of this case and we have apologised to the individual concerned."

"We fully support both an individual's right to hold religious and philosophical beliefs and a person's right to have their identity respected, regardless of their gender identity and expression, sex, or sexuality."

## 'Disgust' at female partner posing as boy

Charlie Moloney

A short-sighted girl has told a court she was shocked and disgusted when she discovered she had been in a relationship with a woman posing as a boy.

Georgia Bilham, 21, is charged with masquerading as a man in order to deceive the alleged victim, who at the time was in her late teens, into having a sexual relationship.

The complainant said Bilham presented herself online as "George Parry" and wore a hood while meeting her, claiming to be "paranoid" because of an involvement with an Albanian gang.

Bilham has insisted during the trial at Chester crown court that the complainant knew she was really female.

In recorded evidence played to the court yesterday, the alleged victim, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said she discov-

ered Bilham's identity after her mother met "George" and told her that she believed he was female.

She told the court: "I just couldn't believe what I was hearing. She [her mother] said she doesn't think George is being honest with me, she doesn't think he is who he says he is and then she said she thinks that he's a girl."

"I was just shocked and disgusted that I'd been so close with this person that turned out to be who it really was, and that George wasn't real."

Martine Snowden, for the defence, suggested that this was the point at which the complainant had to "face up" to what she had "always known and suspected".

The girl began contacting "George" on the social media app Snapchat when she was aged 14 or 15, she said,

and they had one meeting when she was about 16, but began seeing each other regularly in March or April 2021.

Under cross-examination, she agreed that they had exchanged thousands of messages over the years and that the relationship was "a bit like an addiction".

She said she believed she had felt a penis through clothing on two occasions when they were together.

She told the court: "I just felt like some sort of willy figure, like, hard willy figure."

Bilham denied that there was ever anything intended to mimic a penis in her clothing, the court was told.

The court was played messages the complainant exchanged with another woman about "George" in July 2021.

In one, she said: "I'm in a situation with someone I don't even know is a girl or a boy."

Bilham, of Alpraham, Cheshire, denies nine sexual assaults and eight charges of assault by penetration. The trial continues.



Georgia Bilham called herself George Parry online

## Infatuated runner stalked club colleague on Strava

Seren Hughes

A runner used the fitness app Strava to stalk a woman he met at their running club, leaving her afraid of going for a jog in case she bumped into him.

Timothy Mills, 60, sent Emma Lord, 49, more than a hundred messages on Facebook and by text telling her how much he loved and needed her, The Sun reported.

Mills and Lord became friends while members of Macclesfield Harriers. Over the course of two years Mills, who is married, became infatuated, leaving roses outside Lord's home and writing her letters, Warrington magistrates were told.

When Mills saw that Lord, a human resources worker, was going on the same runs at the same time as another runner on the app, which tracks a user's routes and posts them on a social media-style feed, he accused her of

having a relationship with him. Lord stopped running for fear of bumping into Mills, the court heard.

An interim three-month stalking protection order was granted, meaning Mills cannot contact, approach or send gifts to Lord. He opposed the



Timothy Mills bombarded the woman with messages

application, saying he did not see himself as a stalker.

His membership with Macclesfield Harriers has been suspended, as has his UK Athletics coaching licence.

Police are considering whether to bring criminal charges.

Strava was approached for comment.



# Big rise in sexually transmitted diseases

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

Cases of gonorrhoea have soared by 50 per cent in the past year to the highest on record, while those of syphilis are the highest since 1948, as sexually transmitted infections bounce back following lockdown.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said that 82,592 people had gonorrhoea diagnosed last year, the highest since records began in 1918, amid a rise in antibiotic-resistant infections. More than a third of these cases were in people aged 15 to 24, but cases in pensioners have also doubled over the past year.

There were 537 gonorrhoea cases in over-65s, up from 289 the year before. Experts fear that some enjoying new-found sexual freedom or online dating after divorce are not using condoms because of the low pregnancy risk.

Some 8,692 people were diagnosed with syphilis, up 15 per cent on the year before. Syphilis is often thought of as a Victorian-era disease but the bacterial

infection has staged a comeback over the past five years, and can cause life-threatening problems with the brain, heart or nerves.

Overall there were 392,453 STI cases, up by 24 per cent on 2021, with chlamydia remaining the most common infection. STIs such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea are usually easily treated with antibiotics but can cause serious health problems if left untreated, including infertility and pelvic inflammatory disease.

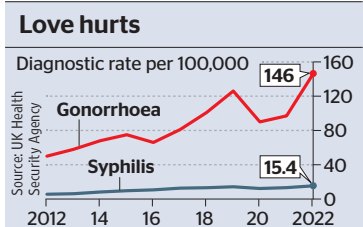
Health officials are particularly concerned about the rise in untreatable gonorrhoea strains that are resistant to ceftriaxone, the main antibiotic used to treat the infection.

Dr Hamish Mohammed, consultant epidemiologist at UKHSA, said: "We saw more gonorrhoea diagnoses in 2022 than ever before, with large rises, particularly in young people. STIs aren't just an inconvenience — they can have a major impact on your health and that of any sexual partners. Condoms are the best defence but if you didn't use one the last time you had sex with a new or casual partner, get tested to detect any potential infections early and prevent passing them on to others."

Campaign groups blamed funding cuts for the rise in infections. Richard Angell, chief executive of the Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "Numbers are surging again because sexual health services and public health budgets have been cut to the bone."



Wall flowers Caroline Simpson, an events assistant at Penshurst Place and Gardens near Tonbridge in Kent, admires the estate's magnificent rose display



## Quintagram® No 1648

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

- 1 Psyche (4)  
\_ \_ \_ \_
- 2 Experience harm or distress (6)  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 3 Throws with a whiplike action (6)  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4 Red ---, aerial display team (6)  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 5 Shockingly disgraceful (10)  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | D | E | E | F | F | G |
| G | I | I | L | M | N | N | O |
| O | O | R | R | R | R | S | S |
| S | S | S | T | U | U | U | W |

Solutions see Times2 page 15  
Cryptic clues see Times2 page 14

## Beach boats halted

All boat operations have been suspended off Bournemouth pier after the deaths of two young swimmers. Joe Abbess, 17, and Sunnah Khan, 12, drowned and eight others were treated by paramedics after they were suspected to have been caught in a rip tide a week ago. Dorset police have impounded the pleasure cruiser Dorset Belle while their investigation continues. The victims' inquests were adjourned until September. Caught in a rip tide, Times2

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# Britain is the best western nation to live in, say ethnic minorities

Kaya Burgess

British people from ethnic minorities regard the UK as a better place to live for non-white people than other western countries, but still feel there is much more progress to be made in tackling prejudice, a report has found.

A survey asked 944 white people and 1,026 people from non-white backgrounds for their views on racism and how they thought the UK compared with other western nations. The poll also asked: "Is the UK a

better or worse place to live as someone from an ethnic minority than other big democracies like the USA, Germany and France?"

It found that 80 per cent of those from ethnic minority backgrounds said they felt Britain was likely to be a better place in which to live, and 73 per cent of white respondents said the same.

The report, compiled by the British Future think tank, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the arrival of migrants aboard the Empire Windrush, noted: "The strength of this verdict may

largely reflect the broad consensus that the state of race relations in the post-Trump United States is worse than in the UK. Britain also has a strong claim to be putting more energy into race equality than most continental European countries."

The survey also found, however, that 67 per cent of ethnic minority respondents said that black and Asian people in Britain faced discrimination in their daily lives. The same proportion said they felt Britain had made "significant progress" in tackling

racism over the past 25 years, but 80 per cent of non-white and 64 per cent of white people said Britain must make "much more progress on race in the next 25 years".

Offered a list of four options, 45 per cent of all respondents failed to select Empire Windrush when asked to name "the particular ship that has become symbolic of Commonwealth migration to Britain". Thirteen per cent of respondents believed HMS Victory was the correct answer.

Patrick Vernon, a commentator and

campaigner whose parents came to Britain in the 1950s, is leading efforts to mark the 75th anniversary of the Windrush. He said: "Nobody taught me about Windrush at school. My sisters, nieces and nephews or even great nieces didn't learn about it either. It was down to our parents and grandparents."

"We need to make sure that the history of the Windrush is in the national curriculum and that it reflects all aspects of our society."

"This is black history and it is British history."



Steam ahead Royal Scot, a 70-year-old replica, is part of the Newby Hall Miniature Railway in Ripon, North Yorkshire. The 1.2km-long track has 50,000 visitors a year

## Ecclestone denies tax fraud over £400m trust

Mario Ledwith

The former Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone has denied failing to declare more than £400 million in overseas assets.

The billionaire is accused of concealing a trust held in Singapore containing \$650 million from the UK tax authorities, Southwark crown court was told.

Ecclestone, 92, spoke to enter a not guilty plea to the single charge of fraud by false representation between July 2013 and October 2016.

Asked whether he would like to sit while on his feet and entering his plea, he said: "I'm fine."

The businessman, who is worth £2.5 billion according to The Sunday Times Rich List, stood next to his lawyers in the well of the court in a dark grey suit. He was supported by his wife, Fabiana Flosi.

Ecclestone, of Knightsbridge, west London, was investigated by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) over a financial arrangement that allegedly allowed him to draw a line under any previous tax irregularities.

The magnate, who was released on unconditional bail, will face a trial at the same court before the High Court judge Mr Justice Bryan in November.

The charge alleges that he "dishonestly" and "thereby intending to make a gain" or to "cause loss to another or expose another to a risk of loss made a representation to officers of HMRC which was, and which you knew was or might have been, untrue or misleading".

He is alleged to have said that he had "established only a single trust, that being one in favour" of his daughters, and that he was not the settlor or beneficiary of any trust in or outside the UK.

Ecclestone has three daughters, Deborah, 68, Tamara, 38, and Petra, 34, and a son, Ace, two.

The Crown Prosecution Service authorised charging Ecclestone last July after an investigation by HMRC, which the tax authority described as "complex and worldwide".



Bernie Ecclestone is accused of failing to declare a trust held in Singapore

# ITV boss criticises This Morning editor for 'toxic aubergine' quip

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

A senior ITV executive has criticised the editor of *This Morning* for making "extremely ill-judged" remarks about aubergines when asked about allegations of a "toxic" work environment.

Martin Frizell, who has edited the daily show for nine years, replied to a Sky News journalist on Monday asking about its problematic culture by saying: "I'll tell you what's toxic. Aubergine. Do you like aubergine?"

Magnus Brooke, director of strategy at ITV, told a cross-party culture select committee that Frizell's response did not reflect the gravity of the situation. "I wouldn't endorse what he said — I'd say it was extremely ill-judged," Brooke said. "Let me reassure you that ITV takes the issue extremely seriously. We have a culture in which people's conduct matters enormously."

Brooke's comments came in a testy exchange with John Nicolson of the

SNP, who called Frizell "outrageously dismissive and flippant on camera about an immensely serious issue".

The ITV executive declined to call for Frizell's resignation. "That's not a question for me and it's not a question for now," he said.

The *This Morning* scandal, which cost the presenter Phillip Schofield his job after two decades with the broadcaster, reared its head again during a later committee hearing yesterday with Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary.

Frazer repeatedly declined to address specifically the problems surrounding the show but pointed to the formation of an industry-wide bullying and harassment watchdog next year, conceived prior to the scandal.

Pressed to share her views about how Dame Carolyn McCall, the ITV chief executive, had handled the furore, Frazer said: "I will ask her my own questions when I see her. It's really important that the KC is allowed to establish

the facts and when they have I will consider the report."

ITV has appointed the barrister Jane Mulcahy to conduct an independent review after Schofield was found to have had a relationship with a much younger colleague, which led to accusations from former staff such as Eamonn Holmes and Dr Ranj Singh that there was a "toxic" environment on the show.

The broadcaster has said the review demonstrates how seriously it is taking the situation.

Brooke told MPs: "We take our responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and duty of care very seriously. Bullying is absolutely a breach of our conduct. We have very clearly set out a set of policies around bullying and harassment at work. And clearly, it's unacceptable if we find bullying. It's inconsistent with our policy. We'd expect people to enforce it and we'd expect it to be dealt with appropriately."

The cross-party committee meeting

had been set up ahead of the Schofield revelations to question Brooke, along with executives from Channel 4 and Paramount, the owner of Channel 5, about the forthcoming Media Bill.

McCall is due to appear on June 14 in a session dedicated to investigating the duty of care measures that the broadcaster has in place.

Ahead of yesterday's session Caroline Dinenage, the committee chairwoman, told Sky News: "These big public service broadcasters have these gods of television, these incredibly powerful and successful celebrities who do have incredible influence and power, and my committee want to make sure that there are the right workplace practices in place, the right duty of care over junior staff members."

"They [celebrities] do have potential power over other people's careers, and we want to ensure that everything is in place that prevents that being abused in any way."



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Noël Coward Theatre, WC2

★★★★☆

"What is a man without loyalty?" asks Vladimir Putin as his political career hits the skids in the Nineties. "Rich, usually," replies Boris Berezovsky, the freedom-loving, rule-tweaking oligarch who will give the former KGB man his crucial leg-up towards big power before spending his final years in exile and regretting it.

These are the kinds of snappy exchanges that stud *Patriots*, the play in which Peter Morgan traces the rise and fall of a maths prodigy turned impassioned, arrogant billionaire. And in so doing, he depicts the origins of Putin's Russia with the same sort of fact-filleting efficiency — and a fair chunk more liberty-taking aplomb — than he brings to his depiction of the royal family in *The Crown*.

First seen at the Almeida in north London last summer, Rupert Goold's production proves as excitingly intelligent as it is refreshingly pacey over its two and a half hours.

It's hard to imagine anyone better

equipped than Tom Hollander to play Berezovsky, certainly in the way he is characterised here as a charming rogue whose love of freedom for Russia dovetails dangerously with his love of power and influence. Early on he sits at his desk at the centre of the T-shaped platform that dominates Miriam Buether's set, literally overshadowing Will Keen's slightly awkward, by-the-book Putin.

By the second half the roles are reversed. Yet although Hollander ensures we are drawn to the cut-the-crap Berezovsky, Morgan makes sure to show the moments where his caprice can turn into bullying; his impulsiveness to arrogance.

Keen, meanwhile, makes sure to make his Putin a man of principle: no man is a villain to himself, as the saying goes. Intimidatingly still, and more stern headmaster with the odd wry aside than your standard-issue ruthless dictator, his Putin emits a sincere disdain for his former mentor's greed and corruption.

Both men see themselves as the



Tom Hollander is a charming rogue as Boris Berezovsky, while Will Keen, left, is a stern Vladimir Putin

true patriots here: we see the flaws and allure of both.

And though the supporting cast is excellent, in roles including Alexander Litvinenko (a blokey Josef Davies) and Roman Abramovich (outstanding ordinary-guy underplaying by Luke Thallon), the scenes between the play's two central

powerbrokers are stunning. Neither gives an inch, Keen quietly embodying the true power of a man who doesn't need anyone else's approval.

Perhaps Morgan relies too much on conversations between Berezovsky and his old maths professor (Ronald Guttman) to take some of the thematic strain as they talk of the push-pull between freedom and limitation.

Mostly, though, as he takes us from

the rowdy post-Soviet freedoms of the early Nineties to Berezovsky's lonely exile in Britain, Morgan extracts black comedy from a sharp-witted powerplay that does not need explicit nods to the war in Ukraine to make its pertinence felt.

It's the sort of evening where the mood can turn on a rouble, leaving you with the ghost of a smile on your face as comedy turns to tragedy.

Until August 19, [patriotstheplay.com](http://patriotstheplay.com)

# Low-traffic schemes backfire on cyclists

Andrew Ellison

The speed at which cycle lanes and low traffic neighbourhoods were delivered during the pandemic led to some poorly designed schemes that may have discouraged cycling, according to the government's official spending watchdog.

Ministers also have "too little" idea about whether the hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' cash spent on such "active travel" projects since 2016 offer value because the Department for Transport (DfT) has not been monitoring the schemes properly, the National Audit Office says. In May 2020 amid

the first wave of coronavirus, Grant Shapps, as transport secretary, announced a £250 million emergency active travel budget for local authorities and published guidance on reallocating road space to encourage cycling and walking.

To help with social distancing, the DfT required councils to start implementing the schemes within four weeks of receiving funding.

In a report to be published today, the spending watchdog says this led to "some poor implementation of schemes in places where plans had not been developed before the pandemic

and local communities were not adequately consulted".

The watchdog also criticises the government's failure to monitor how successful active travel investments have been and says some of the schemes have been so bad they may have actually discouraged cycling.

It says: "Between 2016 and 2021, DfT spent £2.3 billion funding local authorities to build new active travel infrastructure. DfT does not know the total of what local authorities have achieved through this funding and has identified that infrastructure it has funded may not have been good

enough quality. This resulted in some poor value schemes and potential adverse impacts on active travel."

Despite the scale of spending, the government is not on track to meet targets on cycling and walking.

The report also raises questions over the environmental benefit of the schemes. In 2020, when the funding for LTNs and other schemes to encourage cycling and walking were announced, the government said the cash would help Britain to "build back greener".

Yet the watchdog says that the DfT now expects the contribution of active travel to its decarbonisation plan to be

"modest compared with other measures such as zero-emission vehicles".

The report concludes: "In practice DfT has known too little about what has been achieved and has not been able to influence the local delivery of schemes consistently. This has led to patchy delivery of active travel schemes, and it is unlikely that DfT's objectives for increased active travel by 2025 will be achieved."

It recommends that the DfT review its objectives and set "stretching but achievable targets". It also wants the government to ensure that the schemes are better tracked.



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# Pupils ordered to give ‘Sir’ a miss (and don’t say Miss, either)

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

From *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* to *To Sir With Love*, the use of “Sir” and “Miss” to address teachers is a long-established practice.

Now the terms have been deemed a form of cultural misogyny and will be dropped at one leading school.

While Sir evokes knights and respect, Miss is more suitable for little girls and Edwardian shop assistants, according to the head of Harris Westminster Sixth Form in London.

James Handscombe told pupils in an assembly that it was not right to address men as aristocratic knights and women



**James Handscombe said Sir evoked a knight and Miss was more suitable for little girls**

as children. He said: “We are changing the way that students refer to staff. No longer will it be acceptable to call us ‘Sir’ or ‘Miss’. We would prefer you to call us by our names — Mr Handscombe, Ms Scott, Dr Bladon.

“We recognise that you might not know all of those yet and so give you amnesty to say ‘I’m sorry, I’ve forgotten your name’ — or, more likely, ‘I’m afraid I’ve forgotten what title you use’.

“We are also prepared for you to call any of the staff in the school ‘teacher’ if you need a short version for any reason.

“No more ‘Sir’, though, and no more ‘Miss’, [because of] our commitment to a better and more equal world.”

The selective state sixth form, with a substantial intake of teenagers from deprived neighbourhoods, was set up in 2014 by the fee-charging Westminster School and the Harris Federation of

academies. Handscombe told pupils: “I don’t know if you’ve ever reflected on the inequality of the way we refer to teachers, but it’s deeply unequal — I get called Sir, which, if I’m honest, I don’t find personally objectionable, I imagine Sir Lancelot (without the philandering) or Sir Galahad (without the painfully earnest purity).

“Meanwhile Ms Scott gets called Miss which is how you refer to a small girl, or an Edwardian shop assistant.”

He said the school had tried to change the way pupils addressed teachers when it started nine years ago but had too many other things to tackle and “sank into cultural misogyny”.

“I don’t think any of you are being actively woman-hating when you call ‘Miss’ over [for] help with chemistry, but we’re all feeding into a view of the world that diminishes women,” he said.

“Men get to be fearless leaders and alpha types, whilst behind the backs of women it’s asked whether they deserve it, whether their career comes from good ideas or good looks, power moves or diversity lists.”

He said pupils would not be punished for using the wrong title for teachers but “we can’t expect old men to fix this — they aren’t going to help us, too busy helping themselves — they aren’t going to change this, we’ve got to do it ourselves. I don’t think it’s going to be easy, it’s an ingrained habit, I don’t think we’ll get it right all the time but we can get there if we help each other, remember.”

Handscombe also told pupils he expected them to do 16 hours of independent study or homework each week and he wanted more of them to stay on site after the school day ended at 4.30pm. Rather than going home, messing around on social media until 9pm, then starting homework, they should stay at school and do two hours of work before going home, he urged.



**Reach for the stars** Marina Luna and Marika Ashley, the Luna Girls, perform at the Giffords circus show *Les Enfants du Paradis* at Chiswick House, southwest London

# M&S drops use-by dates on milk for the sniff test

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

Marks & Spencer is encouraging customers to use the old-fashioned “sniff test” to check whether their dairy is still drinkable as it removes use-by dates from its fresh milk.

The chain will instead put best-before labels on its British and organic fresh milk in an effort to stop millions of pints being poured down the sink when they are still safe to consume.

Milk is the third most wasted food and drink product in the UK, after potatoes and bread, according to Wrap, a recycling charity. A typical household throws away 18 and a half pints a year, for a combined total of 490 million pints, worth more than £300 million.

“The main reason is not drinking before the use-by date,” Catherine David, of Wrap, said. “By changing its British and organic fresh milk to a best-before date, M&S is instantly helping its customers save money and cut waste by giving them more time to consume the milk they buy.”

Use-by dates set a deadline before which perishable food can be cooked and consumed safely, while best-before dates offer guidance for when a product should be consumed to ensure the best quality, taste and texture.

M&S said that the “combination of improved shelf life and overall quality of milk” had allowed it to “make the change to ‘best before’ dates, which means customers can use their judgment before throwing away milk which may be too good to waste”.

The tide is starting to turn on food labelling as increasing numbers of retailers scrap use-by dates in an effort to reduce waste. Morrisons was the first supermarket to remove use-by dates on its milk bottles, back in early 2022, and the Co-op has removed use-by dates from its own-brand yoghurt.

Morrisons said its research had shown that milk did not need to be labelled as a perishable food.

Last year, M&S removed best-before dates from more than 300 fruit and vegetable lines to encourage customers to use their judgment on whether products were still good to eat.

# Queen fights the corner for page-folders

# Royal police escort could be charged over road death

Jack Malvern

Among controversies guaranteed to rile the British public, it is rivalled only by which order to put cream and jam on a scone, how to hang loo roll and Brexit.

The question of whether one should use bookmarks or fold page corners to keep one’s place in a book has been reopened by a royal intervention. The Queen has been outed by a charity director as a corner-folder.

Vicki Perrin, director of Reading Room, a charity born out of the Queen’s campaign to encourage reading during the pandemic, told OK! magazine: “I think she loves nothing more than being hit by that smell of a book when you open the cover ... The feel of the pages and folding the corner down for the next time.”

Perrin was promoting the charity’s festival at Hampton Court Palace in London on June 11. She said she had been taken aback when she visited one of the Queen’s sitting rooms. “It’s a fantastic sight,” Perrin said. “She’ll be sitting in her armchair and has piles

upon piles of books surrounding her, with more stacked high on every single table. Every surface that you can see is covered in books, even the floor has been taken over.

“The Queen’s love of books is deep-rooted. It’s authentic and it’s so wide-ranging as well. She loves a good crime thriller as much as she loves a romance as much as she loves the classics.”

The Queen has said in the past: “However difficult your life is ... you can pick up a book and you can escape. You can laugh, you can cry, it just takes you out of the real world and it gives you a different dimension to life.”

In January 2021, when she was Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla set up the charity now called the Queen’s Reading Room, a book club including her own recommendations. It has run for five seasons and suggested 44 titles including Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, Vikram Seth’s *A Suitable Boy*, Michael Morpurgo’s *War Horse* and Kazuo Ishiguro’s *The Remains of the Day*.

Perrin said: “Her Majesty saw the potential for books to make us happier,

better connected and as a great way to combat loneliness.”

The Queen told Vogue last year that she enjoyed reading in her husband’s company. “It’s very relaxing because you know you don’t have to make conversation. You just sit and be together.”

Perrin said that the inaugural festival would have appearances by Dame Judi Dench, Dame Harriet Walter, David Olusoga, Gyles Brandreth and Kate Mosse. There will be a tribute to Hilary Mantel and a spoof performance of an imagined Jane Austen novel with a title to be chosen by the Queen. Perrin said that the Queen hoped it would become a regular event spanning several days.

“We are hoping to become something of a driving force behind books in the UK, to put them back at the centre of the cultural agenda,” Perrin said. “It would be fantastic for it to grow on a much broader, wider spectrum with some of the incredible sorts of books, authors and genres that we all love. So we hope that this is a little launchpad for a much greater future and creates a real legacy project for Her Majesty.”

Laurence Sleator

A police motorcyclist who hit and killed a great-grandmother while escorting the Duchess of Edinburgh could face criminal charges.

The unnamed Metropolitan Police officer’s motorcycle hit Helen Holland, 81, from Essex, “at speed” on the A4 near Earl’s Court, west London, on May 10. She died in hospital from her injuries two weeks later.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) said that the officer has been told that they are under criminal investigation for causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving.

They may also face internal disciplinary measures and are being investigated for potential gross misconduct.

Amanda Rowe, the IOPC director, said: “Our thoughts remain with Ms Holland’s family, friends and everyone affected by her death. This is a tragic

incident and it is important that we carry out a thorough, independent investigation to establish the full circumstances, which will include the actions and decision-making of the officer under investigation. We have been in regular contact with Ms Holland’s family and we will keep them updated.”

Holland was carrying shopping bags as she approached the traffic lights at the “dangerous” junction at about 3.20pm, according to witnesses. She stepped into the road to see around an electrical box when she was hit by a police officer on a motorcycle and thrown across the road.

It is understood Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, did not see the collision and her vehicle was not involved.

Following the death, a spokesman for Buckingham Palace said that the duchess was “deeply saddened” and added: “Her Royal Highness’s deepest condolences and sympathies go to all of Ms Holland’s family.”



## News

## Dales are rocked by landmark sale of crag

One of Yorkshire's most popular landmarks has been put up for sale in what agents say is a "one-off" opportunity (Isobel Frodsham writes).

Kilnsey Crag, in Wharfedale, which was painted by JMW Turner in 1816, has been listed by Savills in York with a guide price of £150,000.

It is one of the "big three" limestone crags in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and is popular with rock climbers and walkers. The overhanging cliff was formed by glaciers that filled the valley thousands of years ago.

The listing includes 18.8 acres of crag,



Kilnsey Crag, in Wharfedale, popular with rock climbers and walkers, has a guide price of £150,000

is a site of special scientific interest, so you won't be able to build anything on there, and it is a designated open space, so people have a right to roam across it.

"The crag is internationally recognised in the climbing community, but also for its flora and fauna."

The towering crag provides the backdrop to the Kilnsey Show, an annual agricultural event that celebrates country life with highlights such as livestock competitions, sheep shearing displays and a petting zoo.

It is also the location of an annual British Open Fell Running Association race.

"I'm really excited to be involved in the sale of such a unique landmark in the Yorkshire Dales," Douglas said. "We're really pleased with the initial interest and hope it will lead to a successful sale."

limestone and "upland calcareous grassland pasture". The crag itself looms up to 52m (170ft) over the landscape, and

has an overhang of 12m. Will Douglas, director in the rural agency team at Savills in York, said that although it was part

of the national park, Kilnsey Crag had been owned for several years by a local farmer who had decided to "pass

the baton on to someone else" as they were not using it.

"It's rare for something like this to

come on the market. It's likely to be auctioned but we might have a sudden deadline for offers," Douglas said. "It

# Stop the fearmongering on AI, urges Microsoft

Mark Sellman  
Technology Correspondent

AI experts who warned about the technology wiping out humanity should dial down their warnings, the digital minister and Microsoft's president have said.

Brad Smith, the vice-chairman and president of Microsoft, called on those in the "fear parade" to "ratchet down the rhetoric".

Paul Scully, the tech and digital minister, said that a doom-laden narrative did not lend itself to thoughtful policymaking.

Both made their pleas after a series of alarming warnings about AI.

Matt Clifford, an adviser to the prime minister, said on Monday that AI systems would be powerful enough to "kill many humans" in two years.

Last week Sam Altman, the boss of OpenAI, which developed ChatGPT, signed a statement along with hundreds of leading voices in the field calling for a global push to "mitigate the risk of extinction from AI".

Despite Microsoft being a leading investor in OpenAI, Smith told a TechUK conference: "You won't hear me or the folks at Microsoft on the fear parade. There are important problems we need to solve. There may be some decade or century in the future when we have computers that can do things that you can imagine only today in the realm of science fiction."

"But I think we're better served by maybe ratcheting down a little bit of the rhetoric and focusing our energy so we can move faster in actually addressing the problems that are much more real today than some of what people are talking about."

Scully was asked whether the alarming narrative, such as that outlined by Clifford, "doesn't often lend itself to thoughtful policymaking". He replied: "It doesn't."

The minister added: "Those headlines could come true. I'm not going to dismiss all of this thing. If we get it wrong, there is a dystopian point of view that we can follow here. There's

also a utopian point of view. So if you are only talking about the end of humanity, because of, you know, some rogue Terminator-style scenario, you're going to miss out on all of the good."

Smith laid out Microsoft's vision for regulating AI. He said that powerful AI models, such as ChatGPT, should be licensed and have to pass a safety review and added that data centres should be treated as critical infrastructure.

He also backed calls for an international research centre on AI.

"We should create an international AI research resource, and we should bring together the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, Europe, Japan and Australia and the world's great democracies including India and work together not only to provide our peoples with the resources they need to excel, we need to work together to create a regulatory model that fits together with interoperable regulation."

Deadly dangers of AI, letters, page 24

## Lose your heart to the first love machine

Tom Whipple Science Editor

"Honey dear, you are my affectionate hunger ... Darling love, you are my avid fellow feeling."

Are you seduced by the poetry? Do you feel stirrings? Is this, at the very least, a better gambit than your last Tinder chat?

Your would-be seducer is a 1950s artificial intelligence — of a sort — built by a colleague of Alan Turing. The passages come from a series of printouts of automated love letters, due to go on display from June 16 at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

These days artificial intelligence is often employed for supposedly romantic chat bots, most often to

scam people on social media. Arguably it all began with an algorithm created by Christopher Strachey.

Using a random number generator designed by Turing, the Bletchley Park codebreaker, Strachey programmed a computer to construct love letters. It built sentences by picking from a series of adjectives, adverbs and verbs, and choosing between two sentence structures.

The result, said Dr Troy Astarte, a lecturer at Swansea University, was admittedly crude. One output says: "My affection curiously clings to your passionate wish. My liking yearns for your heart. My tender liking."

Strachey would go on to produce a sophisticated text program called a

general purpose macrogenerator. The love letter program was more recreational. "The fact that [he and Turing] were both gay men perhaps suggests they were having fun with attitudes about love and romance," Astarte said.

It also fits into a debate that was as pertinent then as now. In a paper at the time Strachey said that on learning what he did, people often wanted to know "how long it will be before these machines take over their jobs".

Strachey's view? Although jobs would go, "the majority of these are young women who leave after a few years to get married, so the introduction of a computer will probably not throw very many people out of work".

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Young better at new tech

At a memorial service yesterday for David Young, Margaret Thatcher's industry secretary, David Cameron paid tribute to a "tech nerd" who was ahead of his time. Young, right, who died in December aged 90, insisted in the late 1980s that cabinet ministers be given mobile phones. Some resisted: Ken Clarke got one 25 years later but never switched it on in case someone called. When Cameron made Young his enterprise adviser in 2010, he was the only other person to have his own office in Downing Street. "It was where you'd go to have your faith in government's ability to do good restored," Cameron said. Young was once found on his knees there, covered in cables. "The wifi here is so rubbish," he explained, "I'm setting up my own system."

Another tribute was by Christopher Jonas, Young's deputy as chairman of University College London, who recalled a student asking how to get ahead. "Have good ideas," Young said. "How do you get those?" the student asked. "Experience," Young replied. "And how do you acquire that?" they asked. "Have bad ideas."



**SORRY NOT SORRY**  
David "Diddy" Hamilton is marking 50 years since his first show on Radio 1. Now spinning discs on Boom Radio, he recalls that he used to have a stalker. One day she waited outside Broadcasting House and threw a can of yellow paint over a man as he left, shouting: "Take that, David Hamilton." Her victim turned around and said: "But I'm Paul Burnett." The woman apologised, then asked if there was any chance he could play her a request on his next show.

**FOR THE BIRDS**  
Now ensconced in the Lords, Philip Hammond doesn't understand why people seek elected office. "You lose your privacy, don't earn any money and are universally reviled as worse than estate agents and journalists," the former chancellor told *The Political Party*. "Why would anybody do it?" Maybe because, as

Boris Johnson once said, they don't put up statues to journalists. Though I suspect only the pigeons would want one of Hammond.

*Moderation and populism don't mix. Before becoming a Tory MP, George Eustice tried to be a Ukip MEP. He told Times Radio that he messed up his selection meeting by calling for "friendship with our European neighbours", if not within the EU. This was the wrong answer. "Everybody else said, 'This is the greatest threat to our country since the Luftwaffe'," he said, "and went to the top of the list."*

**MING'S DYNASTY**  
Elspeth Campbell, who has died at 83, was said to have pushed her husband, Menzies, into seeking the leadership of the Lib Dems in 2006. Her loyalty went only so far. A Tory activist tells me that he canvassed their house during one election and, on seeing who opened the door, said: "I don't suppose there's much point in my leaving a leaflet here." As he turned away, Elspeth called him back: "Not everyone in this house votes Lib Dem, you know." Her thesis from the Open University was on *Coronation Street*, a series that her husband explained was "all about strong women and weak men". Much like Westminster.

PATRICK KIDD

Hail, scary: virgin birth by crocodile

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

The first recorded virgin birth by a crocodile has shed light on how dinosaurs were able to reproduce.

The discovery was made when an 18-year-old American crocodile, which lives in a reptile park in Costa Rica, laid an egg containing a fully formed foetus, despite the fact that the female had been housed alone for 16 years and had never mated.

According to a study, published today by the Royal Society in its journal *Biology Letters*, it is the first instance of "facultative parthenogenesis", or virgin birth, seen in the species.

It is especially significant because, in a sense, it completes a set. Parthenogenesis had been seen in birds, which, like crocodiles, belong to a lineage of creatures known as the archosaurs.

Crocodiles were the first to appear. The most recently evolved members are birds, the earliest fossils of which date from about 150 million years ago.

In between, two other types of archosaurs emerged — pterosaurs, which flew, and dinosaurs. "We now know that both the most recent and most ancient lineages within the archosaurs had the potential to reproduce parthenogenetically," said Warren Booth, a professor in evolutionary genetics from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, who led the research.

"As such, we can strongly infer that the extinct members of the archosaurs

— the dinosaurs and pterosaurs — could also reproduce parthenogenetically," he said. "To quote *Jurassic Park*, 'Life finds a way.'"

This is not to say that dinosaurs did not mate. It is likely that they had the ability to switch between sexual and parthenogenetic modes of reproduction.

The study also found that crocodiles and birds used the same type of biological process to achieve parthenogenesis. Known as terminal fusion automixis, it involves the egg cell fusing with a by-product of egg cell production, the second polar body, which contains a near-identical set of genetic material to the egg.

"Reptiles and many lizards, which evolved before the crocodiles, use the same mechanism that we found in crocodiles, as do sharks," said Booth.

The crocodile egg did not hatch but this was not surprising, Booth said. Creatures that come into being via parthenogenesis sometimes make it to adulthood and can reproduce but many are stillborn or live only for a short time.

In the case of the crocodile, the embryo had inherited genetic material from its mother alone. "This is equivalent to being very highly inbred," Booth said. He believes that the discovery is important, though. "It offers an insight into the potential reproductive habitats of extinct members of these lineages and, in this case, the dinosaurs and pterosaurs."

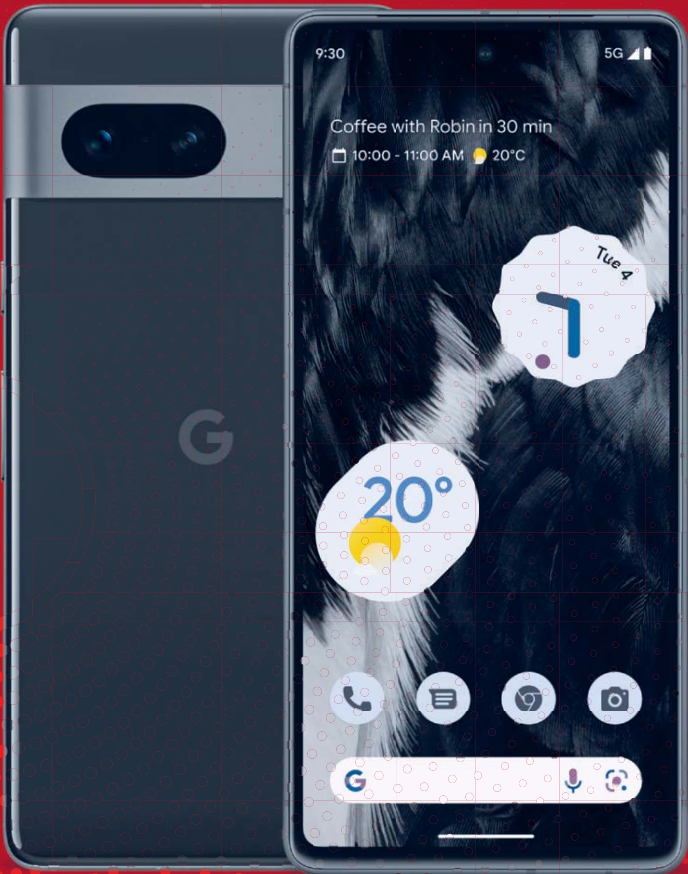
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# Generation Covid's attention span has shrunk to 10 mins

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Children's attention span has shrunk so that some are incapable of sitting through assemblies, a survey has found.

Primary teachers say that they are dealing with unprecedented behaviour problems in the classroom since the pandemic and that children are struggling to concentrate.

The survey of more than 500 primary school teachers found that 70 per cent believed children's behaviour had continued to worsen, while 84 per cent said attention spans were shorter.

Since Covid, 69 per cent of teachers said they had seen an increase in inattention and daydreaming, 57 per cent said children were quicker to complain about being bored and 54 per cent believed children were more apathetic and disinclined to participate in lessons.

More than half also said children found it harder to stay seated and were more likely to annoy and provoke each other. Eighty-five per cent of teachers said they were dealing with a rise in low-level disruption such as needless chatter, shouting out during instruction and laughing inappropriately.

The same number believe social media has negatively affected pupils' attention span and concentration. Some teachers said they spent less than ten minutes on any single activity to maintain children's attention.

A teacher at a Derbyshire primary said: "We had to teach the children through a screen during the pandemic, but taking the screen away now has had a massive impact. Daydreaming is a big issue, as is helping children relearn social skills. Little things like turn-taking got lost during Covid. We also have to do a lot more movement breaks to avoid the children tuning out."

A teacher at an east London primary said: "Some children appear to have lost skills such as collaborating with and being considerate to and respectful of others. The conduct of many children in assemblies has been particularly symptomatic. Some have lost the ability to sit as part of a large audience and focus on a message being shared with the whole school."

The survey was conducted by Kapow Primary, an online subject resource.

Nearly a third of primaries do not have a single male teacher and numbers are declining, research by Warwick Business School shows. Schools in special measures are less likely to have a male classroom teacher. The lack of men could also affect recruitment targets for physics and maths teachers.

Dr Joshua Fullard, assistant professor of behavioural science at Warwick Business School, said: "The decline in the number of male classroom teachers is getting worse. There is a large body of research that shows students benefit from being educated by a teacher with certain similarities to them. Boys from less affluent backgrounds are already the lowest achievers in school. They are the students who would benefit most from a male teacher, but they are less and less likely to have one."

More than 40 per cent of primary schools placed in special measures by Ofsted had no male classroom teachers. The report said recruitment and retention would be improved by increasing pay by more than 10 per cent and reducing tuition fees for teacher training.

Fullard added: "Men are more likely to consider finances when deciding to go into or leave a profession. This explains why the persistent decline in teacher's pay has affected male teacher numbers more than their female counterparts."

## Schools sound death knell for pupils learning recorder

Constance Kampfner

The news will come as a relief to some but to others it is a sign of the declining cultural health of the nation.

Musicians believe that the recorder, a staple of primary school classrooms, is heading for extinction thanks in part to the pandemic. Over the past ten years the number of young people playing the instrument has declined by 80 per cent, according to a leading music school.

At Chetham's School of Music in Manchester three pupils practise the recorder, compared with 15 a decade ago. Tom Redmond, the joint principal, said the pandemic played a big part in its decline. "The idea of playing an instrument where you were projecting aerosols was frowned upon," he said. Children were also unable to join orchestras, leading to an increase in the number taking up the piano and other solo instruments.

ABRSM, which runs music exams, found that the proportion of children playing the recorder had dropped from

52 per cent in 1997 to 28 per cent in 2014 and to 15 per cent in 2020. Use of the ukulele, meanwhile, grew from 1 per cent to 15 per cent in the same period.

According to Redmond not only is the recorder one of the most accessible instruments, it is also "beautiful and refined". Next month Anna Williams, one of the three practising the instrument at Chetham's, will be the first recorder soloist to perform with the Chetham's Symphony Orchestra. Williams, 18, will play Richard Harvey's *Concerto Incantato*. "It's encouraging that new works are still being commissioned," she said.

Chris Orton, a recorder tutor and chairman of the European Recorder Teachers Association, said the instrument was not only the preserve of classical music students, but that bands such as the Beatles and Led Zeppelin had used it.

He said: "It has a rich history and incredible versatility. As well as making beautiful sounds, it's an accessible instrument in that it is low-cost and it's light and easy to carry."



# Tesco is a basket of problems for the Amazon.



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## Declining freshwater mussels flex back

One of England's last freshwater mussel populations has started reproducing for the first time in 13 years, after more than a decade of conservation efforts (Will Humphries writes).

The critically endangered freshwater pearl mussels are clinging on in the River Irt in the Lake District, but only 300 remain and they face extinction if their habitat fails to improve.

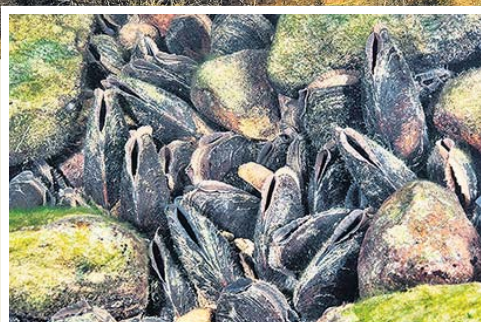
Chris West, from West Cumbria Rivers Trust, said it was "thrilling" and "heartening" to find evidence that the species, which is under threat of extinction, was now reproducing again in the river.

Conservationists



Young freshwater pearl mussels were released into the River Irt by Wast Water in the Lake District

have been releasing captive-bred juvenile mussels into the river to increase the population and



plan to release more.

Freshwater pearl mussels were formerly widespread in England and Wales but over the past 100 years there has been more than a 90 per cent decline.

They can live to be 120 years old or more

but do not become sexually mature until about 15. The few remaining populations in England and Wales are usually about 70.

Their numbers have been hit by habitat loss, water quality and wildlife crime.

## Shell adverts banned over 'greenwash'

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Shell has had a series of TV, internet and billboard adverts banned by the advertising watchdog, which warned the oil and gas giant that future advertisement must not oversell green initiatives while it remains a significant polluter.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) upheld a complaint against three of the company's adverts last June, on the grounds that consumers would get the wrong impression Shell was a low-carbon company rather than one predominantly selling fossil fuels.

"We understood that large-scale oil and gas investment and extraction comprised the vast majority of the company's business model in 2022 and would continue to do so in the near future," the regulator said.

Adfree Cities, the group that complained about the advert, said: "Today's official ban on Shell's adverts marks the end of the line for fossil-fuel greenwashing in the UK."

Shell said: "We strongly disagree with the decision, which could slow the drive towards renewable energy... no energy transition can be successful if people are not aware of the alternatives available. That is what our adverts set out to show, and that is why we're concerned by this short-sighted decision."

# Areas where all burglaries go unsolved

Debbie White

Police have failed to solve a single burglary in nearly half of areas in England and Wales for the past three years.

The revelation, in police data, prompted fears that such offences have in effect been decriminalised in parts of the country.

Statistics from 30,100 areas showed that 48.2 per cent of them had had no reported burglaries solved in the three years to March. More than 80 burglaries remained unsolved in each of the three worst areas — parts of Hampshire, South Yorkshire and southeast Lon-

don. An area is defined as containing about 1,500 people or 650 households.

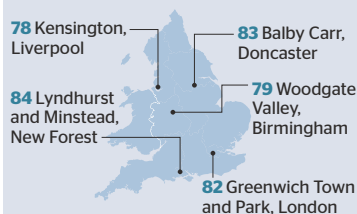
The response to burglary, robbery and theft was "not consistently good enough — and victims face a postcode lottery when it comes to how thoroughly officers might investigate crimes", the police inspectorate said last year.

The data included the period since last October when the 43 chief constables in England and Wales agreed that police would visit the scene of every burglary. However, most forces exclude outbuildings, sheds and garages.

Last August Andy Cooke, His Majesty's chief inspector of constabulary, said

### Zero success

Number of burglaries in the top five neighbourhoods where none was solved



30,100 neighbourhoods in three years to March 2023 in England and Wales

that failing to target burglary, robbery, and theft — classed as serious acquisitive crime — "damages public confidence in policing". His annual report will be released this week.

It was revealed in April that more than 200,000 burglaries went unresolved last year, the equivalent of 574 every day.

Eight in ten burglary cases reported to the Metropolitan Police, Hertfordshire, Surrey and South Yorkshire police forces went unresolved, according to government figures.

Home Office statistics showed that 209,424 burglary cases were closed by

police last year, a 10 per cent rise compared with the previous year. But analysis by the Liberal Democrats showed that 77 per cent of all burglary cases went unresolved and only 6 per cent resulted in a suspect being charged. Hampshire police recorded the worst outcome, with 84 per cent of cases last year not being solved.

The Home Office said the latest crime survey for England and Wales had shown a 34 per cent drop in burglaries since December 2019. It said Suella Braverman, the home secretary, had made clear she would hold forces to their promise of attending every case.

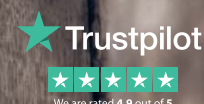
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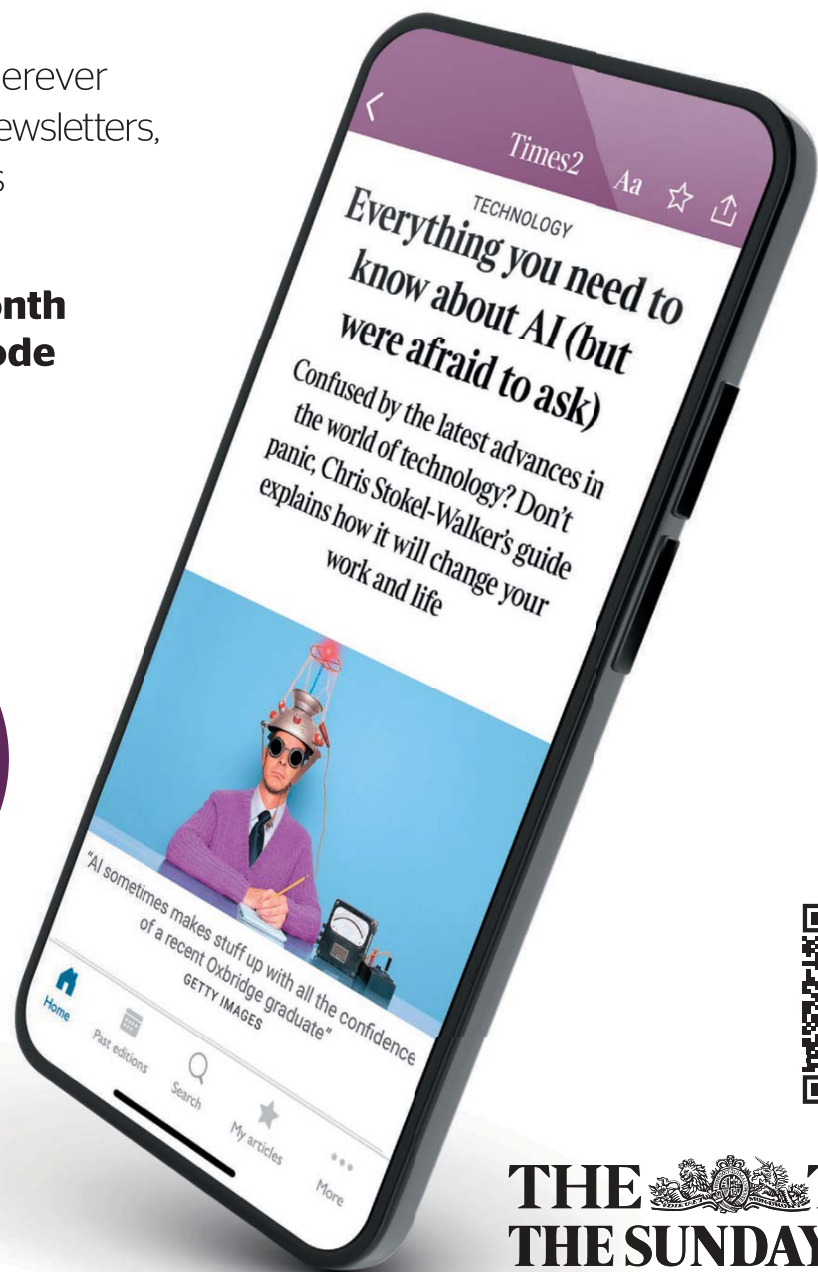
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**I'd pay more for milk if it meant a fair shake**

**Matthew Parris**  
Page 22



# Comment

## Crying 'globalist' fails the test of history

My parents' story shows why demonising international forums is dangerous and ignores our obligation to humanity

**Daniel Finkelstein**



@DANNYTHEFINK

Here's why I am not merely a "national" conservative. Why nationalism cannot form the basis of conservatism or, more importantly, of Britain's future. And why I bristle when terms such as "globalist" are thrown around as insults and form the basis of conspiracy theories.

"The news of the notice in the *Staatsanzeiger* startled me a little at first and touched me in a strange way, but now I feel it's like a liberation, especially in view of today's situation. We are now completely free!"

My grandmother Grete Wiener is writing from Amsterdam to her husband in London after the publication in the German Imperial and Prussian State Gazette of an announcement that the family had been stripped of their German citizenship. They had become, quite literally, citizens of nowhere.

The day that Grete wrote — the "situation" she was referring to — was September 3, 1939, the day Britain declared war on Germany. It's a story I tell in my new book *Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad* which is published tomorrow.

As much as the annulment of their citizenship liberated the family from its attachment to Germany, becoming stateless proved a disaster for them all and they spent the rest of the war scrambling to find any nation that would provide them with documents, before ultimately relying

on papers that were falsely issued.

So no wonder I have always felt a special attachment to this country, to the place that made us once more citizens of somewhere. And, beyond this, it has meant I value the very idea of nation. A place where a people can belong, can commit themselves to a common defence, can forge a democratic understanding and enjoy a common culture. A place where outsiders — migrants, refugees — are welcome, and find they are joining something that has a sense of itself, which they can benefit from and help to develop.

Before the war my grandfather had supported the idea of a homeland for the Jews in Palestine, but not a nation. He was vehement about it. The Holocaust, inevitably, changed his mind. Without a state, there was nowhere on which Jews could rely and, after the war, few places for many displaced Jews to go. A state was needed. And Palestinians, by the

An interest in the fate of mankind beyond our shores is a duty

way, feel the same. They want a state too, and with good reason.

The Holocaust showed that nationhood was necessary but also showed that it was not sufficient. The effect of removing my family's citizenship was that — since rights are attached to being part of a nation — nobody had responsibility for them. They had no rights that belonged to them simply on account of their being human.

This was the story of my mother's family. Meanwhile, my father's family found themselves subject to deportation from the city in which they had lived for hundreds of

years. The Soviets, after a rigged election, established sovereignty over the people of Lwow (Lviv as they now styled it) and thus the right to do what they liked to the people who lived there. This involved imprisoning my grandfather and exiling my ten-year-old father, who subsequently almost died of cold and hunger.

Again, their rights were tied up with their citizenship rather than with their humanity. And that cannot be enough.

The obvious lesson of the Second World War — in danger of being forgotten as the events retreat in the rear-view mirror — is that nations, however vital, are not enough. After the conflict British conservatives understood this and were prominent among the architects of a new world order, one in which human rights had a claim alongside national rights.

An interest in the global order and in expanding the rule of law beyond national boundaries was not the economic project of the jet-setting financial elite, nor a project masterminded by the World Economic Forum to release the rich from democratic control. It was, and remains, a hard-headed response to the shortcomings of nationalism.

The problems of nationalism go beyond, in the immortal words at the recent National Conservatism conference, the fact that Germany "mucked up". And beyond even the fact that other nationalist regimes "muck up", as Stalin did, as Putin does, as the Chinese are doing. It is that nationalism argues that sovereignty is everything, that it is above the rights and prosperity of humans.

National Conservatives are right to argue that there are circles of obligation. That these begin with the family and then with the neighbourhood and then the nation.



Problems with nationalism go deeper than the fact that Stalin "mucked up"

It is impractical — unnatural, even — to argue that fellow feeling towards family and friends is the same as to strangers. And in the same way, we will feel differently towards residents of our own country than we do towards those who reside elsewhere. But there is nonetheless a circle of obligation beyond the nation. An obligation to all human beings. The business of other nations is our business too, just as those nations have a stake in the business of Britain. This is attacked from the right as "globalist" and from the left as "neo-conservative" but I hold to it still.

After the disaster that overwhelmed my parents, there came a determination to build international institutions that protect human rights and advance prosperity all over the world. The work has been

done very imperfectly and there remain many obstacles in its way. But to abandon it would be a disaster.

The involvement of conservatives in the creation of international courts and charters, and the accession to the European Communities, is not a departure from the true path. It came about because conservatives believe in the role of institutions in guarding against tyranny and establishing the rules of commerce and ownership. And just as this must hold nationally, so it must hold internationally.

This is especially the case because technological change means that we are increasingly reliant on each other beyond national boundaries. And to believe that this can be prevented or reversed is naive.

To make the restoration of national control the main conservative project is therefore an error. Because the increasing impact of the community of nations on us is unavoidable. And an interest in the fate of mankind beyond our shores is a duty.

There seems to be abroad on the right the feeling that this is the time for defensiveness and retreat. Brave talk that after Brexit we would go out into the world has given way to mutterings about the need to protect ourselves from a global elite running a shadow government out of Davos.

The debate that should be about shaping the international order is, instead, too often about which international treaties we should abandon and which institutions we should leave. That is not the talk of a self-confident party or a policy for the self-confident nation that took in my parents.

**Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad** by Daniel Finkelstein is published tomorrow by William Collins and is available from [timesbookshop.co.uk](https://timesbookshop.co.uk)

## Preview Screening: Disney and Pixar's Elemental

Disney and Pixar's *Elemental* is an all-new, original feature film from the studio that brought you *Up* and *Inside Out*. On the evening of Wednesday, June 21 we are hosting a special preview screening at 23 Everyman cinemas across the country. Register now to join us.



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## Comment

# Khaki capitalism makes prey of pariah states

China thrives on the powerful military classes of Asia that keep their states institutionally weak

**Roger Boyes**



@ROGERBOYES

Spread across Pakistan the army has cantonments, gated communities for high-ranking officers who relish their privileges: the swimming pools, the golf courses, the serving staff. When Imran Khan's angry, rioting supporters recently ransacked a general's villa in Lahore, they mockingly put on his uniform, set ablaze his furniture and cars, and stole a peacock they found on the manicured lawn. It seemed almost like a revolutionary act. The army and the displaced Pakistani prime minister are on a kind of war footing.

Editorialists everywhere are calling on Pakistan to drive the army out of politics, but Khan knows it is not going to be so simple. For sure, the destructive cycle of Pakistani politics — in which no leader has served out his or her full term — has to be broken if some kind of democratic equilibrium is to be found in a nuclear state with a 600,000-strong army. But it's a difficult fix at a time when global crises — trans-border terrorism, destabilising migration flows, extreme drought and flooding — force feeble central governments to call on the military for help.

The top brass has to be kept sweet and the ultimate social stabiliser has to be not only inflated defence budgets but active stakes in the

economy. In a system dubbed khaki capitalism, generals in Africa, Latin America and Asia are cashing in: they have become land-owners, stakeholders in construction companies, in farms, hotels, airlines and banks. On retirement they land lucrative sinecures on the boards of state-owned companies. States used to have armies; today in the global south, armies have states.

This power is being challenged not only in Pakistan but in other Asian countries where the self-entitlement of the military class has started to jar next to depleted living standards. An election in Thailand last month produced, against expectations, a thumping win for the Move Forward

### Beijing has been quick to spot the potential of the soldier-capitalists

party, which attracted young metropolitan voters by promising an end to military conscription, civilian oversight of defence procurement and a relaxation of the laws that punish anyone seen as insulting the king. But it will need to form a coalition and get majority approval in the senate, which is packed with military appointees. There are dangerous weeks ahead if the army decides to mount yet another coup before the coalition is announced in July.

Young critics of the Thai military say its ownership of large swathes of land that cannot be cultivated aggravates food poverty. An analysis of military sinecures in state-owned

enterprises paints a dismal record: there are military directors on the boards of a docks company, the tobacco monopoly, the government lottery, government pawn shops, airports, telecoms companies, the zoos, the waterworks authority and public transport. For many decades deep into the 1960s — that is, even after a 1959 ban on narcotics trafficking — the army made large sums out of the opium and heroin trade. This was explained away, in so far as it was talked about at all, as a way of funding groups fighting communists.

The outgoing Thai government had a great deal of sympathy with the Myanmar junta, despite the bloody atrocities committed when troops ethnically cleansed Rohingya Muslim villagers. Most of them are still in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh, increasingly angry and easy prey for people smugglers. The Myanmar generals who organised their expulsion were also beneficiaries of the army's khaki capitalism. Two giant holding companies run by retired generals or their cronies dominate the economy. Steel plants, an insurance monopoly, a cement works, fisheries, mining: all these sectors keep the cash flowing not only for personal enrichment but also to buy loyalty.

It is this khakistocracy that keeps the pariah state in play because, despite western sanctions to punish those involved in the Rohingya atrocities, they have lucrative links with China, which is especially interested in Burmese jade. Beijing has been quick to spot the potential of soldier-capitalists and is turning them into some of the key operators

in its Belt and Road initiative. This is more than Asian influence-wielding. In 2017, when Robert Mugabe was on the ropes, the head of the Zimbabwean army turned up in Beijing and is said to have received the go-ahead to mount a coup.

These are the ties that bind. Chinese support for Cold War-era revolutionary movements, whose fighters later became generals of independent nations, is one route. So is the sense that China can keep up a steady flow of investment and become a malleable security partner, one that isn't particularly bothered by human rights abuses.

Just after taking over as Pakistani army chief last month, General Asim Munir, clutching his malacca cane, headed for Beijing to talk about joint manufacture of submarines, and about tanks and fighter aircraft. He was greeted as the likely arbiter of Pakistani democracy. The official line from Beijing is that Pakistan is an "all-weather strategic partner". The subtext: China is extremely interested in a military that controls state policy towards India and Afghanistan.

Here then is how the world is shaping up. Weakly governed states — it is difficult to argue that Khan had a particularly good innings as prime minister — find themselves undermined by corrupt generals who are not only satisfied by self-enrichment but mesmerised by the potential of Xi Jinping, who seems to them to know where he is going. Time for civilian politicians to think again about the limits that should be imposed on these easily duped generals: in Asia at least they have got too big for their polished boots.



## Galleries should drop the cringing and tell our story

Laura Freeman

When did galleries get so judgy? Some time between the awakening of woke in the 2010s and the Black Lives Matter summer of 2020.

"We have been planning this rehang for eight years," Nicholas Cullinan, director of the National Portrait Gallery (NPG), has told The Times, "long before the start of any of those discussions that have now become so heated." Cullinan promises informative and balanced captions. "We aren't in the business of passing fashionable moral judgment on historical figures."

No sins of the fathers? No ten degrees of separation from sitter to someone who might once have taken sugar in his tea? We can but hope.

Lately, I feel I do less art appreciation, more policing of captions. Visiting the Holburne Museum in Bath, I stopped on the stairs to look at John Hoppner's portrait of Catherine Cussans. The caption reads: "Catherine Holburne married Thomas Cussans, a sugar plantation owner from Jamaica, from whom she inherited an annuity secured on his Caribbean estate and its enslaved people."

There's a bit more family background and lastly, leastly, a postscript paragraph. "The artist Hoppner was one of the finest and most fashionable portrait painters in Regency England." I'd have gone for that as my opening gambit.

Visiting our museums and galleries, you might believe there is no such thing as art, only appalling artists and their still more appalling subjects. In the last few years, we have witnessed museums in acts of mass self-flagellation. Collections must be decolonised, recontextualised, purged and sent for conservation in perpetuity. Naughty Gauguin, nasty Picasso, horrible, horrible Hogarth. There is a card on sale in the Royal Academy shop designed by the illustrator David Shrigley. It reads: "It's a complete disgrace I am deeply offended by everything." You said it, David.

I liked the Tate Britain rehang more than some critics (even The Guardian thought it "worthy"), but the 18th-century galleries tell one story and tell it over and over. Slavery, sugar, the South Sea Company. Sorry, sorry, sorry. You could come away thinking that no Georgian had ever written a play or a novel, built a house or designed a garden, a waistcoat or an ormolu chair. Taste, art and style are incidental or irrelevant.

If the NPG really has dropped the cringing, the correctives and the capital Bs for black, if it really has remembered it is a gallery of art with a capital A, and that it tells our island story, bad and good, then I shall step out into Trafalgar Square and cheer.

Laura Freeman is chief art critic

## Matthew Parris Notebook

### I'd pay more for milk if it meant a fair shake

If you blinked last week, you probably missed the sudden birth, pitiful life and predictable death of a new government policy. For about a minute, Britain was heading for official price controls at supermarkets on "basic" items such as milk. Or so briefings led some to believe. The health secretary, Steve Barclay, then rushed on to the airwaves on Sunday to assure us that a policy that hadn't even been announced wasn't what anybody thought. This was, he suggested, more a matter of "talking to" supermarket chiefs — or (as an official later briefed) "keeping prices as low as possible".

A happy thought indeed. But one of the many reasons price capping doesn't work in a free market is that downward pressure on the retailer will simply be transmitted on to the supplier. And as the ultimate supplier (well, penultimate) is the dairy farmer, farmers in my part of Derbyshire are worried. Already they

are screwed down to punishing prices by the bargaining power of the big supermarkets.

These are anxious times for British farming, after the ending of subsidy from the EU's dreadful common agricultural policy. Many hill farms face ruin. Some towns in my area have "fair trade" notices as you enter. Coffee brands (for instance) may advertise their participation. But this is for the benefit of foreign farm workers. How about for British producers too? I and many others would choose a milk bottle marked "fair farmgate prices" even if it were a penny or two dearer.

### Romance is dead

Do visit (I did last Wednesday) the Rossettis exhibition at London's Tate Britain. It gives a splendid, comprehensive and striking picture of a very distinctive era in both the fine arts and poetry (the talents of the Rossetti siblings, Christina, Dante Gabriel, Maria and William, were many). As an undergraduate I loved "Pre-Raphaelite" painting with its vividness and sharp colours, and its heroic-romantic men and beautiful maidens

with pale, almost porcelain faces.

Now, 50 years later, I was able to form an older person's view. I reacted strongly against it. The more I read about the Rossettis in the programme notes the less I liked their suffocating, self-absorbed circle and silly entanglement with an imagined world of romantic legend. It's all so precious. Faces, beautifully drawn, looked like waxworks and even pairs of lovers seemed, each of them, alone. There was no softness, no real interaction, no flesh and blood, no smell except perhaps lilac and lavender. Farewell, enthusiasms of my youth.

### Lost marbles

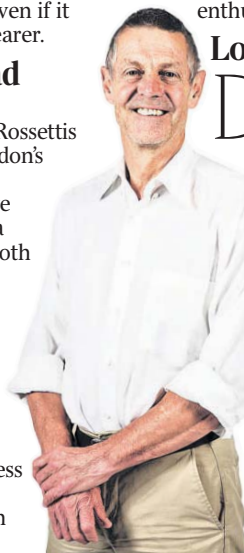
Did you see Oliver Shah's Sunday Times piece about the CBI "scandal"? The real scandal, he argues, is the tendency of modern management to panic at the first hint of a Me Too story, and to start apologising and expressing horror and shame before any serious inquiries are made. As far as I can see, somebody touched two people's bottoms and a boss developed a crush on an employee. This was wrong, but once reported it was settled. Then The Guardian got the story, adding a claim

that someone was raped by colleagues "while working at the CBI" — but abroad and not at the workplace. Would I blame The Times if I was attacked by a colleague when drunk in a bar abroad? But by then the board had gone into headless chicken mode and started apologising for stuff that was only allegation and hadn't even been investigated. The CBI began to fall apart.

British management has always been cowardly. Now, through cowardliness, its own trade union totters. We are living through a time of madness, dear reader. Try to keep your head and hang on until the rest of the world regains its sense of perspective. I hope I'm still alive.

### Try, try again

Henry Dumbleby, the businessman who writes about food, made an important point yesterday at the Future Countryside conference at Hatfield House, which my partner has been involved in organising. Citing a failed attempt on Dartmoor to rescue a threatened ecology, he explained how important it is that we should dare to embrace failure, learn and try again. We journalists have a case to answer here. We love "splashes" about "blunder" and "waste". But this makes people timid about pioneering ideas. "If at first you don't succeed..." is a lesson we should learn.







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# Farming today means thinking of tomorrow

Conflict between food producers and environmentalists can be eased but only by a government that values the countryside

**Alice Thomson**



@ALICETTAMES

Four years ago, on a perfect summer's day, 15-year-old Iris Goldsmith died while driving an all-terrain vehicle with a friend across a newly mown field at her home in Somerset. Now her father, Ben, has written *God is an Octopus*, a book about his grief. Living without Iris became unbearable. He visited mediums, talked to rabbis and took hallucinogenic drugs, but it was nature that helped him to heal. He pulled down the fences on his farm, created meandering streams, let cattle roam and stopped mowing the field that had taken his daughter until it became a sea of flowers.

Nature is nurture. Slowly, Iris's father regained a sense of himself in the seasons, and a feeling of hope watching the revival of insects and birds on the land. Since the upheaval of Brexit and the pandemic there has been a proliferation of books tapping into our desire to reconnect with our roots; stories about hawks, moths, lost rainforests, wild swims and forgotten paths. Yet the countryside has

become a battlefield, the sides ever more entrenched. I've interviewed gardeners, rewilders, nutritionists, soil enthusiasts, environmentalists and the NFU (National Farmers Union), who pitch weeds and wilds against formality and farming, sheep against wolves, ancient oak forests against rows of spruce.

Meanwhile nature struggles. The rivers become toxic, depleted fields are unproductive, the price of milk has soared and then plummeted, ecologists are doom-laden at the devastation of species and farmers are desperate. The 300,000 agricultural workers in England still don't know what is happening to the farming subsidies that are disappearing post-Brexit, and many are struggling to cope financially.

Last year, Sir James Dyson, the inventor and the largest farm owner in England, wrote to Thérèse Coffey, the agriculture secretary, to ask how the government could help farmers to produce food profitably while protecting nature. He received no answer. Boris Johnson and Liz Truss preferred to make trade deals with America and Australia for cheap chicken and beef from industrial agri-businesses. To compete, British farmers will have to use more pesticides and chemical fertilisers and sacrifice animal welfare and wildlife.

And yet at a conference on the

future of the countryside in Hertfordshire, yesterday, one idea stood out. It may sound like a compromise, it annoys the evangelicals on both sides, but it would create a harmonious relationship in which both farmers and environmentalists would benefit. This is sustainable regenerative farming, in which food production, nature restoration and climate action work together. It sees farmers as both food producers and custodians of a healthy landscape, protecting our heritage.

Patrick Holden, founder of the Sustainable Food Trust, first started

## Farmers deserve remuneration for this holistic, healing work

regenerative farming 50 years ago on his small farm in west Wales. He eschewed chemicals, abandoned repetitive planting of wheat or corn (popularised in the 1970s for efficiency) and returned to a gentler form of crop rotation and mixed arable and dairy farming.

More recently, James Rebanks, a sixth-generation hill farmer, has shown in his book *English Pastoral* how a small regenerative farm can enhance nature. His farm in Matterdale, Cumbria, now has more

than 200 species of wildflowers and grasses. He is planting trees and restoring peat bogs, while keeping his flock of sheep. But both have had to boost their incomes by writing.

Isabella Tree, who popularised wilding on her Knepp estate in West Sussex, reintroducing white storks and purple emperor butterflies, has also introduced regenerative farming. As has Jake Fiennes, working on the 25,000-acre Holkham estate in Norfolk, where spoonbills and red kites now proliferate as well as livestock.

Often, only the richest, largest estates can afford to wild extensively, boosting their finances by renting out their castles for weddings. This sustainable style of farming, though, works on anything from a hundred acres to many thousands, helping to feed the nation nutritious local food. However, farmers deserve remuneration for this holistic, healing work. In Poland, farming practices now align food production with efforts to restore nature and stem biodiversity loss, and landowners are paid £2,000 to host beavers, which help reduce flooding.

This doesn't mean a return to medieval farming, rather marrying modern and traditional techniques effectively. At Dyson's farm, tractors with sensors target individual weeds to restrict the use of pesticides, and an anaerobic digester heats the

greenhouses for his strawberries. But even he can't make the sums add up to farm environmentally without help.

The government's post-Brexit subsidy system remains chaotic, failing to insulate farmers from wildly fluctuating food prices while not protecting our land from the worst kinds of farming. The EU's basic payment scheme is on the way out, but its replacement (Elms) is in flux. The old Countryside Stewardship Scheme to protect the landscape was nearly scrapped, and is still underfunded, over-complicated and inadequate.

The system should be simplified. Farmers could be paid properly to create ponds and restore natural sponges such as woodlands and wetlands, to end the artificial straightening of streams and improve soil quality. Instead of flaying hedges each year, they should be paid to maintain them as wildlife corridors. Grass pastures could be cut later to establish wildflowers and breeding birds. In return, farmers would have to commit to stop slurry draining into streams and rivers, curtail pesticide use and produce high-quality food, while increasing public access to their land. Only by helping farmers and environmentalists work together can we preserve the countryside and save our food security and our sanity.



Letters to the Editor



Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF



Ban on e-cigarettes

Sir, Concern about the use of e-cigarettes by children and young people expressed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (“Ban disposable e-cigarettes to stop child vaping epidemic, doctors urge”, Jun 6) is timely and in line with the view of the European Respiratory Society and the Australian government that there is not enough evidence to show that these products help with quitting smoking or are safe. The cavalier attitude of a small group of UK academics, none of whom are paediatricians, who dismiss the resulting addiction to nicotine and exposure of the lower airway to pro-inflammatory compounds as the same as ingesting caffeine needs to be called out for what it is: naive at best, cynical at worst. Banning the sale of e-cigarettes to the public and requiring a prescription for inhaled electronic device-delivered nicotine for smokers who have tried all evidence-based approaches is urgently needed. **Jonathan Grigg** Professor of paediatric respiratory and environmental medicine, QMUL; chairman, European Respiratory Society tobacco control committee

Pre-flight drinking

Sir, Whatever the alcohol restrictions introduced in flight (“Air rage soars as vape bans make passengers fume”, Jun 5), the problem lies equally with pre-flight drinking. To me both as a passenger and a doctor, seeing passengers imbibing pints of lager and the like often from 6am in the airport is always a worrying sign. Until there are realistic restrictions on airport bar opening hours and a boarding pass record of alcohol intake the problem will sadly remain. **Dr Richard Atkinson** Ref’d consultant in pain medicine, Central Sheffield University Hospitals

Breastfeeding boon

Sir, You report (Jun 6) that researchers have found that breastfeeding improves exam results and that micronutrients and mother-child bonding are possible causes of this (the researchers’ analyses exclude maternal intelligence). However, it seems plausible that mothers who breastfeed for at least 12 months are also likely to be prepared to put time and physical effort into their child’s continued upbringing, with obvious beneficial effects. **Andrew Millar**, MRCP, FRCS Wallingford, Oxon

Corrections and clarifications

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Deadly danger of uncontrolled AI technology

Sir, It is a natural human reaction to fear a new technology (“Two years to save the world, says AI adviser”, Jun 6). In the initial days of the automobile, people were so afraid that they made a law that a man would have to walk in front of a car with a red flag; likewise, Victorians believed that fast trains could cause a variety of problems to the body. I do think there are dangers from the misuse of AI but, like the car or the train, the potential benefits outweigh the risks. A lot of the present concern about AI stems from this basic human insecurity regarding the new. However, I think caution is advisable and it is important to look at existing laws in the light of new technology and to fund research into making AI both robust and safe, but we must be careful that fear does not stop us from embracing something that will be enormously beneficial. **Philip Torr**, FEng, FRS Professor of engineering science, Oxford University, and Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellow

Sir, Matt Clifford, Rishi Sunak’s adviser on artificial intelligence, overestimates the threat from AI when he says that we could have a computer that is more clever than a

human within two years. AI systems are already able to do some very specific tasks far better than most humans, such as playing chess or summarising information, but I know of no AI experts who believe that artificial general intelligence is possible in the next decade or two. The threat from AI comes from its ability to help humans to do malicious things, in the same way that AI can help with tasks that benefit society. William Hague’s article (“Britain and America can lead the world on AI”, Jun 6) overestimates the power of regulators to control the development and use of AI in a competitive world where industry is investing huge resources and countries are competing for the investments. The threats from cyberattacks and bioweapons would be better addressed by making companies liable for the security of critical software and by stronger controls on the materials and processes for synthesising biological agents. **Professor Martyn Thomas**, FEng Emeritus professor of information technology, Gresham College

Sir, I agree with Matt Clifford that the near-term risks of weaponised AI

systems are “pretty scary”. But legal tools alone will not be enough to shield the world, we need a broader debate on AI ethics at all levels of society. Is it unthinkable to introduce an equivalent of the Hippocratic oath to the robotics field? Machines, no matter how sophisticated, will never be able to conform with the legal and moral requirements of war. When a soldier makes a fatal error, the incident can be traced to individuals. If a machine commits a war crime of its own volition, who does one hold responsible — the commander who dispatched the robot, the programmer, or the government that invested in the technology? Major powers, including the UK, must lead the way in bridging this responsibility gap. **Professor Nayef Al-Rodhan** Neuroscientist; director, geopolitics and global futures programme at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Sir, All these warnings about the impact of artificial intelligence sound similar to the millennium bug that would supposedly crash the world’s financial system at midnight on December 31, 1999. **John Trayner** London N3

Meadow’s Law case

Sir, It is difficult to even begin to imagine the anguish experienced by Kathleen Folbigg experiencing the death of four children and then being falsely imprisoned for their murder (“Mother jailed for killing her four babies is pardoned”, Jun 6). Roy Meadow was statistically correct in claiming that when three extremely rare events occur together this is overwhelmingly likely to be due to a specific cause rather than chance, famously paraphrased by Ian Fleming as: “Once is happenstance. Twice is coincidence. The third time it’s enemy action.” Meadow’s failure was to describe the cause of multiple cot deaths as murder unless proven otherwise — even in the absence of medical evidence. This has now been rightfully discredited and hence miscarriages of justice based on this false logic are not likely to recur. Of continuing concern is that Meadow’s standing in the medical and legal worlds of the time meant that he was not, or could not, be suitably challenged by cross-examination or the evidence of other witnesses. Distinguishing fact from

opinion and respect from reverence is a daily challenge for all involved in medico-legal work, to ensure that justice prevails. **Anthony Cohn** Consultant paediatrician, London NW4

Walk on wild side

Sir, Alan Clarke of Lime (letter, Jun 6) claims that e-scooters, e-bikes and regular bikes are all safer for pedestrians than journeys made by car. I would like to invite him to take a walk with me along Ealing’s once sedate and pleasant pavements, which have become a Wild West of these machines being ridden furiously and illegally, with no regard for the safety of pedestrians. He talks of “investment in parking areas for shared e-bikes”, but these machines are scattered haphazardly along Ealing’s pavements, sometimes forcing pedestrians on to the busy roads. These cluttered pavements pose an additional threat to the safety of the blind, the disabled and mothers with young children. The laws of the road seemingly do not apply to these e-cyclists and e-scooterists as they whizz along with phones pressed to

their faces, oblivious to all around. These machines also seem to be the getaway method of choice for London criminals. On his stroll through Ealing’s urban jungle with me, Mr Clarke could not fail to notice the complete lack of enforcement against illegal riding of these e-menaces. **Paul Thomas** London W5

Pitching peanuts

Sir, I read with delight Giles Coren’s enjoyment of Damon Runyon’s stories and how his father, like mine, read them to him (Notebook, Jun 6). The reference to theatre security staff searching his wife’s handbag for nuts put me in mind of the Runyon story set at a baseball game, where bets are laid as to who can throw a peanut the furthest. The winner, it transpires, has been using a lead blob disguised as a peanut. Security beware. **Julian Barran** Bath

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

DERBY TRAFFIC CONTROL BY WIRELESS

FROM THE TIMES JUNE 7, 1923

The Metropolitan Police authorities have reason to congratulate themselves on the results of their first experiment in controlling the road traffic to Epsom Downs by means of wireless communication between a fixed post, on the racecourse, a mobile post, in a police tender on the road, and an aeroplane. The working of this combination under the supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel P R Laurie, head of the Traffic Department of Scotland Yard, was watched with interest by constabulary forces of other parts of the country, and it is

understood that the system will be tested at other race meetings, not only within the Metropolitan Police area, but beyond. That this trial was made under testing conditions may be assumed from a statement by Colonel Laurie, shortly after noon, that the road traffic was heavier than that of Derby Day last year, which was said to be a “record”. More than 5,000 motor-coaches from various parts of the country, in addition to thousands of private cars, were in the streams of vehicles which converged on Epsom Downs. More than two thousand police, mounted and on foot, were engaged on and around the course, and motor-cyclist patrols played an important part in the general scheme of traffic direction on the roads. The long, straight run of the Kennington Park Road from Kennington Gate to Newington butts is, by tradition, the place from which to see the procession of vehicles returning from Epsom on Derby

night. In these days of motor traction, however, much of the former glory of South London’s annual pageant has departed, and under the miserable weather of last evening the show was but a sorry shadow of those of old. Still, some thousands of South Londoners, chiefly juvenile, turned out to line the route, and even contrived to raise an occasional cheer in answer to the salutations of homecoming racegoers. In most of the big hotels and restaurants of the West End there was dancing until 2am. At one hotel women dancers wore well-known racing colours. Film records of the Derby from start to finish, including “close-ups” of the favourites, and specially-photographed scenes of the gipsy camps, were shown in some London picture theatres as early as 6.30pm.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Mocked medals

Sir, I have sympathy for Julie-Anne Fulford (“Veteran ‘mocked by soldiers’ for wearing her medals to Palace party”, news, Jun 5). When I was ambassador in Yerevan my husband and I met a British barrister who was on a tour of the gardens of the South Caucasus. The gentleman established that I worked at the British embassy. “And what do you do in the embassy?” he asked. “Run it, on a good day,” I replied with a smile and with what I thought was suitable modesty. “I thought the ambassador did that,” he said. I then abandoned modesty. “She does,” I said firmly. He did at least have the grace to blush. I hope Ms Fulford continues to wear her medals. **Thorda Abbott-Watt** London W8

Nobel substitute

Sir, Further to your article about Rosalind Franklin not being awarded the Nobel prize for her involvement in the discovery of the structure of the DNA molecule, she was already dead when the award was announced (“Making a song and dance over the forgotten woman of DNA”, Jun 6). This in itself ruled out any possibility of her being considered for the award. I made a bronze plaque that is still fixed to the wall of The Eagle pub in Cambridge, which I am assured still attracts visitors from home and abroad. She may not have been much of a drinker but she is far from forgotten. **Norman Sanders** Ipswich

Teaching exodus

Sir, I am not surprised to read that badly behaved children are forcing teachers out of the profession (“Rowdy pupils driving out teachers”, Jun 6). This is not a new phenomenon. In many years of training teachers I found that pupil behaviour was the most difficult challenge faced by trainee teachers, as it was as far back as the 1960s when I was in the classroom. **Dr Stan Smith** Welland, Worcs

Club sandwich

Sir, Hannah Betts’s recollections of a London clubland less than welcoming to vegetarians (Times2, Jun 6) are not wholly typical. At the Reform Club we have recently acquired a portrait of the first vegetarian MP, Joseph Brotherton (1783-1857), who was a founder member. **Mike Thomas** Brill, Bucks

Stingingly cold


Sir, In your leading article on snorkelling in Scottish waters, you rightly identify the underwater landscape as pristine (“Bonnie Snorkelling”, Jun 5). Having just spent two weeks sailing through the Inner and Outer Hebrides I can confirm that the sea at this time of year is remarkable not only for its clarity but also for its abundance of jellyfish: lion’s mane, purple stingers, barrel, compass and moon were in bloom. Although none of these splendid creatures can impart anything more than an unpleasant sting, they did provide a very good excuse for avoiding the risk of hypothermia from a bracing swim with or without a snorkel. **Dr Tim Fooks** West Chiltington, W Sussex



Daily Universal Register

US: Rishi Sunak begins a two-day visit in Washington DC, during which he will meet with President Biden, members of Congress and business leaders.

Nature notes

 The transformation from caterpillar to butterfly is one of nature's greatest wonders. This process is made yet more dramatic by the large blue butterfly (*Phengaris arion*). In what reads like one of Aesop's fables, the caterpillar tricks another species into protecting and feeding it. Through chemical and auditory mimicry, the caterpillar dupes the red ant (*Myrmica sabuleti*) into believing that it is one of the ant's own larvae. The tricked worker ants carry the charlatan to their nest where it feeds on the genuine ant grubs. Ten months later, in adult form, the large blue butterfly crawls up out of the nest and takes to its breathtakingly beautiful wings. JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today

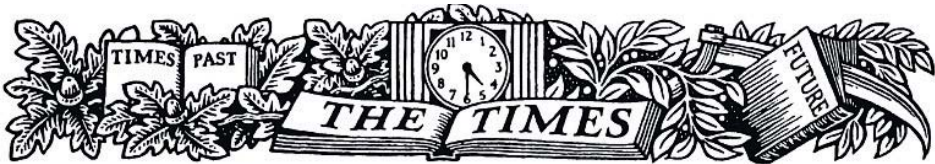
 **Liam Neeson**, pictured, actor, *Schindler's List* (1993), the *Taken* film series, 71; **Roberto Alagna**, tenor, 60; **Helen Baxendale**, actress, *Cold Feet* (1997-2003), 53; **Lord (Colin) Boyd of Duncansby** KC, senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, lord advocate, Scottish executive (2000-06), 70; **David Buckley**, composer, *Greenland* (2020), 47; **Adam Buxton**, comedian, *The Adam and Joe Show* (1996-2001), 54; **Michael Cera**, actor, *Juno* (2007), 35; **Lesley Douglas**, co-founder, Lonesome Pine Productions, controller, BBC Radio 2 (2004-08), 60; **Louise Erdrich**, author, *The Night Watchman* (2020), 69; **Monica Evans**, actress, known for her portrayal of Cecily Pigeon in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, 83; **George Ezra**, singer-songwriter, *Shotgun* (2018), 30; **Bear Grylls**, adventurer, chief scout, Scout Association, and broadcaster, *Running Wild with Bear Grylls* (2014-22), 49; **Stephen Hickey**, UK ambassador to Iraq (2019-21), 44; **Damien Hirst**, artist, 58; **James Ivory**, film director, *The Remains of the Day* (1993), 95; **Sir Tom Jones**, singer, *It's Not Unusual* (1965), 83; **Anna Kournikova**, former tennis player, grand-slam doubles champion, 42; **John Lytton**, Earl of Lytton, chartered surveyor, president, National Association of Local Councils (1999-2014), 73; **Dame Virginia McKenna**, actress, *A Town Like Alice* (1956), *Born Free* (1966), and wildlife campaigner, 92; **Ralph Palmer**, Lord Lucas of Crudwell, editor-in-chief, *The Good Schools Guide*, 72; **Orhan Pamuk**, novelist, *The Museum of Innocence* (2008), and Nobel prizewinner (2006), 71; **Mike Pence**, US vice-president (2017-21), 64; **Michael Pennington**, actor and writer, co-founder (1986) of the English Shakespeare Company, 80; **Neal Radford**, cricketer, England (1986-88), 66; **Emily Ratajowski**, model and actress, *Gone Girl* (2014), 32; **Craig Williams**, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, parliamentary private secretary to the prime minister, 38.

On this day

In 1973 Willy Brandt became the first West German chancellor in office to visit Israel, on a four-day state visit. His opening remark was: "We cannot undo what has been done."

The last word

"And this our life, exempt from public haunt,/ Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,/ Sermons in stones, and good in everything." William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act II, scene i (1599)



Law and War

Russia must answer at the World Court for its crimes of terrorism and discrimination directed against Ukrainian civilians

The Soviet film *Poem of the Sea* (1958), directed by Yuliya Solntseva, depicts the construction of the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine as a heroic enterprise in which villagers accept that their homes and orchards must yield to the forces of progress. It is propaganda. Historians believe this project did immense damage to the ecosystem of the region. The Kremlin's claim that the destruction of the dam yesterday was an act of Ukrainian provocation also appears hollow. Vladimir Putin's regime has deliberately targeted civilian lives and infrastructure in its war of aggression against Kyiv since February last year. Though reliable information is as yet scarce, it would be in keeping with this strategy for Russia to blow up the dam, heedless of the danger to civilian lives in villages and towns that now adjoin the Dnipro river, in order to prevent a crossing by Ukrainian forces. The bombing and consequent flooding provide a sobering backdrop to a case that began yesterday at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague, in which Ukraine accuses Russia of being a terrorist state. The evidence substantiating Kyiv's case is voluminous. The gravamen is that Moscow violated a UN treaty combating terrorism by equipping and financing pro-Russian separatist forces that shot

down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over Ukrainian territory in 2014. The indictment also accuses Russia of discrimination against ethnic Tatars in Crimea, which the Kremlin illegally annexed in 2014. These constitute just a small part of the depredations committed by Russia against its neighbour. A court in the Netherlands has already given life sentences to three men, two of them Russian and one Ukrainian, on finding them guilty of shooting down MH17 with a surface-to-air missile of Russian manufacture. They were fighters for the self-declared Donetsk People's Republic, a separatist group allied with and aided by Moscow. Moreover, human rights groups have documented numerous cases of abduction, torture and murder of Tatars in Crimea, and the repression of Tatar language and culture. The indictment hence neither consists of partisan allegations nor alights on isolated crimes. The Kremlin's campaign against Ukraine is systematic and barbarous, and follows a pattern of lawless conduct. In addition to murder, rape and torture directed against civilians, and the kidnapping and deportation of hundreds of children, Russian forces have attacked energy infrastructure in order to inflict misery on civilians. Even though the

Putin regime spurns international opinion, the case brought by Ukraine matters and will disturb the Kremlin's bluster. The ICJ is not like the International Criminal Court (ICC), which prosecutes individuals. Though the ICC has a vital role in international jurisprudence, Russia does not recognise its jurisdiction. The ICJ, by contrast, is a civil tribunal dealing with disputes between member states of the United Nations. It has a history of careful deliberation and its justices will surely not allow diplomatic niceties to restrain its inquiries. Since its initial annexation of Ukrainian territory nearly a decade ago, the Putin regime has shown the weight it places on legal fiction by the constant self-serving twists in its diplomacy. It has vainly asserted that the secession of Crimea has legal precedent, and fraudulently claimed that the government in Kyiv that took office in 2014 lacks legitimacy as it took power in a coup. It has used international institutions to make bogus complaints of genocidal actions committed by Ukraine's forces. It is past time for this disinformation to be refuted. The assertion of law is part of the defence of Ukrainian sovereignty and is integral to the comity of nations. Russia must be subject to it.

Secret Policemen

The closure of covert Chinese surveillance stations in the UK is long overdue

Almost a year ago, campaigners began highlighting the phenomenon of secret Chinese police stations on British soil. As in many other countries, including the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, the Chinese Communist Party was running a network of security hubs, which were being used to silence dissenters and to pressure them into returning home. In April, *The Times* revealed that one Chinese businessman linked to such a station, Ruiyou Lin, had also been organising Conservative fund-raising dinners. A combination of support for both the British Conservative Party and the Chinese Communist Party may seem novel. Yet it was in keeping with China's so-called United Front strategy, of using Chinese nationals abroad to push for Chinese interests. Mr Lin has denied having links with either party, and claims to be interested only in meeting investors. Chris Philp, the policing minister, described such reports as "deeply concerning" and said that the government was aware of around 100 stations across the globe. Following the arrest of two people based at a station in Manhattan, China de-

nounced what it termed American "slanders and smears". Yesterday the security minister, Tom Tugendhat, declared that all such known stations in the United Kingdom have now been closed. After a police investigation he said: "I can confirm that they have not, to date, identified any evidence of illegal activity on behalf of the Chinese state across these sites," suggesting that new scrutiny may have curtailed their ability to operate. This is not the only time that Beijing has betrayed a certain inability to grasp that it cannot behave beyond Chinese borders as it does within them. In October, a pro-Hong Kong protester at a rally outside China's consulate in Manchester was dragged into its grounds and beaten by a gang. Those responsible, who appear to have included senior members of consulate staff, refused to be questioned by British police and were eventually recalled prior to their likely expulsion. James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, was moved to remind China that Britain would "abide by the rule of law and we expect others to do likewise". The closure of these stations is a small but vital first step towards reminding China that other

nations have internal sovereignty, too. Chinese and Hong Kong students on British campuses are known to face near-perpetual surveillance from Chinese agents within the UK. Other Chinese students are relentless in their lobbying of universities over their hosting of dissident speakers, or their portrayal of Taiwan on maps. Only belatedly, and at US prompting, has Britain woken up to the danger of permitting Chinese Huawei equipment to dominate, unchecked, vital systems behind our national infrastructure. China remains a valuable and vital trading partner. Yet as the spectre of genuine military conflict between the US and China grows closer, the West must ask itself how much of this crass meddling it is prepared to stand. China's instincts towards authoritarianism are clear, and undeniable now in Hong Kong even for those formerly prepared to turn a blind eye to the horrifying repression of the Uighurs. Increasingly, the former hope of many that China would one day become a responsible global superpower seems naive. Yet if this remains in any way a hope in Beijing, too, it is time for China to start acting like one.

Breast Boost

It's increasingly clear that breastfeeding makes for brainy babies

Everybody knows that breast is best, but scientists are still examining the extent of the advantage it confers. A new study from Oxford University suggests an impact on exam results. Breastfeeding can help protect babies from infections and reduce the risk of chronic diseases in adulthood. An association between breastfeeding and higher educational achievement has also been observed. Causality, however, can be difficult to establish. Better-educated and better-off mothers tend to breastfeed more. If their children perform better at school, it may be the mothers, not the milk, that makes the difference. Or not. The

new research, which followed children in the Millennium Cohort Study born between 2000 and 2002, found that those who were breastfed for between four and twelve months did better in their GCSEs than those who had not been breastfed, and those who had been breastfed for more than a year did best of all. The advantage persisted once the study was controlled for intelligence and socioeconomic status among mothers: children breastfed for at least a year were 39 per cent more likely to get top grades in maths and English. The government has had only partial success in

persuading mothers to breastfeed. The proportion who start off breastfeeding rose gradually to three quarters a decade ago, but has dropped back slightly since; the proportion who go on breastfeeding after six to eight weeks is stuck below half. Britain has one of the lowest breastfeeding rates in the world. That should be improved. Many mothers naturally resent the implication that those who do not or cannot breastfeed are letting their children down. It seems likely, even so, that more breastfeeding would benefit everybody. The nanny state is sometimes tiresome, but in this case, nanny may well know best.



# World

# Zelensky denounces Russia

Thousands are forced to flee as billions of gallons of water spew from a breached dam, reports Catherine Philp from Kyiv



It was 2.50am and the air defences over Kyiv were shooting Russian cruise missiles from the sky when, almost 400 miles to the south, the Nova Kakhovka hydroelectric dam exploded.

Dawn lit up a scene of destruction in the middle of the Dnipro River, and the sight of billions of gallons of water gushing downstream from a gaping breach in the 30m-high dam wall.

Ukrainian officials were first out of the gate, accusing Russia of deliberate sabotage in an effort to slow down a long-anticipated offensive and distract attention from the battlefield, as the dam in the southern Kherson region lies under Moscow's control.

Summoning security officials to an emergency meeting, President Zelensky blamed the breach on "Russian terrorists", saying it underlined the need for Ukraine to liberate all its territory from its neighbour's occupation.

The Kakhovka power station supplies electricity to more than three million people in Ukraine. Officials said it was too early to confirm



Livestock had to be rescued and Nova Kakhovka's square was submerged after the dam, located in the Russian-controlled Kherson region, was destroyed



casualty numbers or whether the plant could eventually be salvaged, but Zelensky condemned the "largest human-made environmental disaster in Europe in decades".

At a hastily convened national security council meeting in Kyiv, Ukrainian commanders briefed Zelensky that explosives planted inside the hydroelectric power station had been detonated, causing the breach. "Russia has controlled the dam and the entire Kakhovka hydro power plant for more than a year," he said. "It is physically impossible to blow it up somehow from the outside, by shelling. It was mined by the Russian occupiers. And they blew it up."

An emergency evacuation order was given for communities downstream, including low-lying areas of the city of Kherson, which has been under intense Russian shelling since the occupying forces withdrew to the eastern bank of the river in November. Officials were told they had five hours to evacuate about 20,000 people before the water reached critical levels. The White House warned that there were "likely many dead".

"We are trying to save people," Zelensky had said on Telegram. Ihor Klymenko, the Ukrainian minister of

internal affairs, said Russian shelling was hampering attempts to guide people to safety. "The Russian military continue to shell territory where evacuation measures are being carried out," he told Ukrainian television, adding that two policemen had been wounded by artillery fire.

The floodwaters washed landmines from positions on the Russian-controlled eastern bank, creating an additional danger, he said. Others highlighted the huge environmental damage, with 150 tonnes of engine oil from the power station released into the floodwaters during the explosion and potential wide-scale pollution.

Daria Zariyva, an adviser to the head of Zelensky's office, accused the Russians of striking at Ukraine's critical agriculture sector, seeking to "turn the south into a desert" and create a global food crisis.

"They want to remove Ukraine, particularly in Africa, as a competitor, and blackmail the world with hunger," she said. "They are doing their best to ensure the Ukrainian south is economically broken when we return."

Video shared on social media showed grain stores submerged by floodwaters, while upstream, farmers fretted over finding an alternative to the reservoir to irrigate their crops.

In Antonivka, a riverside town south of the dam, residents watched in horror as muddy water engulfed the streets. Russian artillery shells continued to rain down on the town even as they tried to board evacuation buses and trains south to Mykolaiv. Serhii Sumyn, a volunteer rescue worker, said hundreds of people had been evacuated from the worst-affected areas of Kherson city. "But some people refuse to leave," he said. "They say, 'this is my home and I'm not going anywhere.'"

## It wasn't us, says Moscow

Russia  
Marc Bennetts

Russia's main television station, Channel One, reported that the Nova Kakhovka dam had been targeted by "Ukrainian nationalists" to deprive Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014, of fresh water.

The reservoir at the dam feeds into the North Crimea Canal, which provides the peninsula with about 20 per cent of its drinking water. "The water to the canal is being drastically reduced," a spokesman for President Putin said. However, Sergei Aksyonov, the Russian-backed head of Crimea, said there was no immediate threat to supplies.

The FSB, Russia's security service, also alleged that it had thwarted a Ukrainian plot to drop "dirty bombs" containing radioactive material on Russian energy facilities.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner group of Russian mercenaries, suggested that Russia may be allowing Ukrainian-backed forces to advance in its Belgorod region before hitting them with a "little" nuclear weapon.

"It's scary to drop [a nuclear bomb] on others' territory, but we can drop it on our own," he said. "We'll show them [how] cool [and] mentally ill we are."

Oleksandr Prokopiev, another volunteer, said the majority of locals in Kherson affected by the flooding were older people and those with mobility problems. "About four to five kilometres of the riverbank has been submerged in water. We started work at 6am and had to carry one man out of his home. It was later washed away by the floodwaters," he said. He and his fellow rescue workers had also been trying to save animals from the water.

Videos posted by Ukrainian police showed officers trying to save dogs, left tied up by their owners, from the rising waters. Separate footage from Nova Kakhovka showed raging waters flooding the zoo to anguished cries from keepers. Three hundred animals there died, with only swans and geese escaping. Footage from Kherson showed a beaver scuttling along the road, chased by the rising tide. By afternoon, two swans were seen swimming in Nova Kakhovka's flooded central square.

Ukraine said that water levels at the dam had reached a 30-year high in the weeks before the breach, after Russian officials kept sluice gates closed, possibly to inflict maximum damage through flooding.

António Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, said it did not have any independent information on how the dam burst, but he described it as a "monumental humanitarian, economic and ecological catastrophe".

"At least 16,000 people have already lost their homes — with safe and clean drinking water supplies at risk for many thousands more," he said, adding that UN aid workers were co-ordinating with the Ukrainian government to send support including drinking water and water purification tablets.

"Attacks against civilians and critical civilian infrastructure must stop. We must act to ensure accountability and respect for international humanitarian law," Guterres said. Jens Stoltenberg, the Nato secretary-general, also denounced "an outrageous act".

Last night, the UN Security Council discussed the dam breach after requests from both Ukraine and Russia, each blaming the other. The ambassadors of Britain, Russia and France said investigations were continuing and in London, Rishi Sunak said it was too soon to make a "definitive judgment" that Moscow's forces were responsible.

Sunak added: "But if it's intentional, it would represent, I think, the largest attack on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine since the start of the war, and just demonstrate the new lows that we would have seen from Russian aggression."

John Kirby, spokesman for the US National Security Council, said that Russia controlled the dam, "but we cannot say conclusively what happened at this point."

A senior aide to Zelensky warned that the breach could endanger the safety of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is 90 miles upriver and requires water to cool its dormant reactors.

"The world once again finds itself on the brink of a nuclear disaster, because the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant lost its source of cooling," Mykhailo Podolyak said. "And this danger is now growing rapidly."

Russia must answer at the World Court for its crimes, leading article, page 25





Surfers, don't look down — sharks can be closer than you think  
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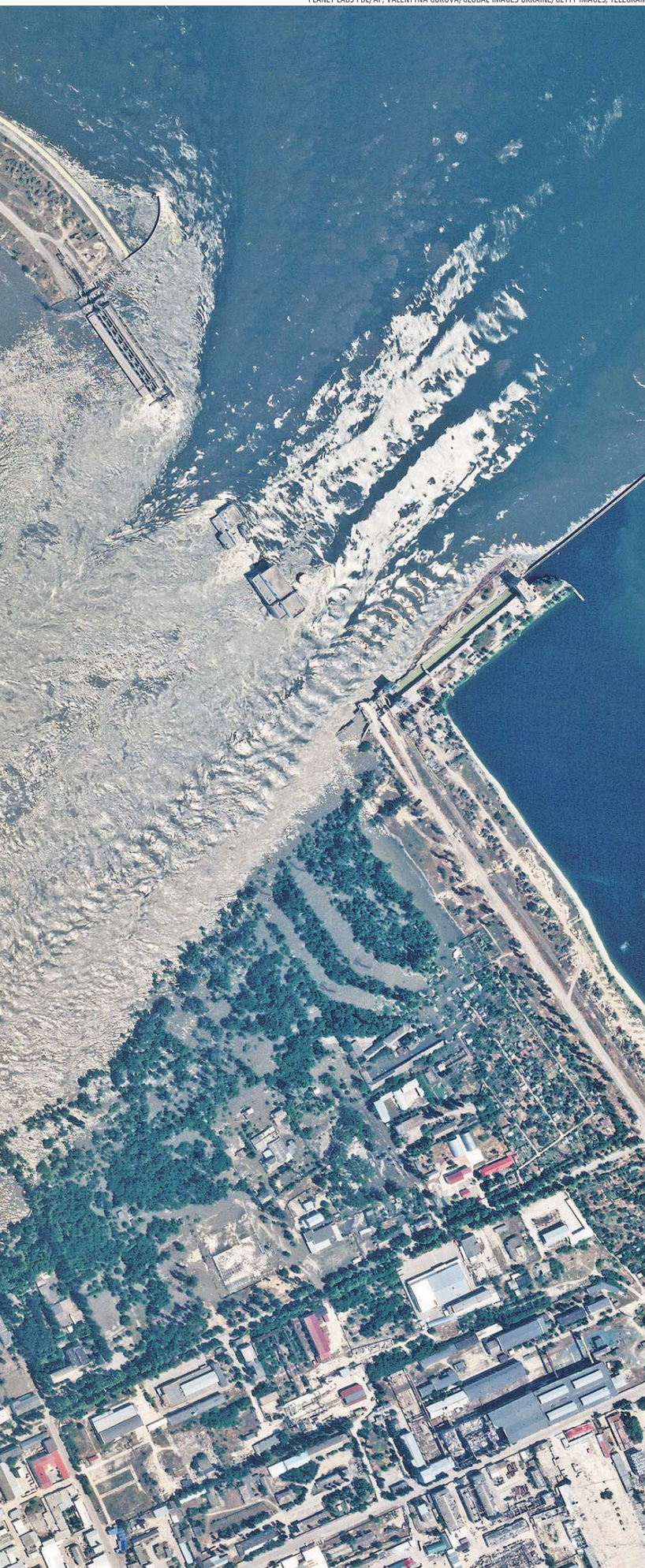


Spain's PM has a back-up plan: running Nato  
Page 30



# for 'environmental disaster'

PLANET LABS PBC/AP; VALENTYNA GUROVA/GLOBAL IMAGES UKRAINE/GETTY IMAGES; TELEGRAM



## How will dam blast affect Ukraine's counter-offensive?

**I**f reports of Ukrainian ground manoeuvres are correct, the long-expected counter-offensive to recapture Russian-controlled territory is now under way (Catherine Philp writes).

Ukraine made clear this weekend that its newly trained, western-equipped forces were as ready as they could be for the great push forward — but stated that no starting gun would be fired.

Russian and American officials have reported Ukrainian advances in the eastern Donbas region that point to Kyiv's forces testing enemy defences, looking for points of vulnerability, before launching what is expected to be a sophisticated combined arms assault.

Twelve new assault brigades, nine of them western-trained and equipped, will lead the counter-offensive, coming fresh to the battlefield to relieve comrades who have held largely static lines through a long, wet winter and spring.

Russia's suspected sabotage of the Nova Kakhovka hydroelectric dam all but rules out a river crossing from the direction of Kherson and Mykolaiv towards Russian-controlled territory.

That was always the least credible approach in any case, requiring Ukrainian forces either to cross via the dam itself or on a pontoon across the wide Dniro River, both of which would have left them vulnerable to Russian positions on the eastern bank.

The sighting of German-made Leopard tanks by Russian-backed separatists on the Zaporizhzhia front line, however, may confirm what is likely to be one of the pressure points for the battle to come.

Military analysts have singled out the areas around Zaporizhzhia and Vuhledar as places from which Ukraine could seek to cut through Russia's land bridge to Crimea, splitting Moscow's forces in two and cutting off those in the southwest from supply lines.

Russia's Ministry of Defence said on Monday that Ukrainian forces had launched mechanised attacks at five points along the front line in southern Donetsk around Vuhledar to test Russia's defences.

Ukraine's deputy defence minister confirmed that its forces were advancing north of Bakhmut, in Donetsk oblast, which Russian mercenaries captured last month in the "meat grinder" of the winter war only to be replaced by less battle-hardened Russian regulars.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner mercenary group, has blamed the replacements for a partial retreat that has given Ukraine the prospect of regaining a foothold in the symbolically

### Attack lines



significant town. Further north, in Luhansk, Ukrainian forces have also carried out probing attacks along the Kremenna-Svatove line, where another front could be opened.

Along the northern border of Kharkiv oblast, Russian anti-Putin partisans have launched attacks across the border into Belgorod, seizing villages and taking prisoners. Although Kyiv denies, implausibly, that it is working with the partisans, the Belgorod incursions are another headache for Moscow, potentially distracting forces from front lines in occupied territories.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the Chechen warlord, offered on Sunday to send his forces to Belgorod to deal with the incursions, an offer many saw as an attempt to prevent his men from being deployed in Ukraine. Should the partisans from Russian Volunteer Corps and the Freedom for Russia Legion penetrate further into Belgorod, they could circle round and trap Russian forces between their own border and a Ukrainian advance.

Whichever combination of fronts Ukraine decides to attack on, the fight for long-held and well defended territory is unlikely to resemble past counter-offensives such as the one last year at Kharkiv, where Russian forces retreated rapidly, leaving a vacuum into which the Ukrainians could advance.

Oleksii Danilov, Ukraine's national security adviser, told The Times yesterday that only a handful of senior officials and commanders were aware of the shape of the battle

plan, which would adapt as events unfolded. Russian forces have dug in along the 600-mile front line, constructing multiple defensive layers of trenches, minefields, fortifications and "dragon's teeth" — concrete pyramids intended to thwart an armoured advance.

Ukraine will be marshalling all its new western kit for combined arms battle groups made up of tanks, armoured infantry fighting vehicles to support them, artillery firepower and infantry. The weakest element is air support: the West did not cave in to Ukraine's demands for F-16 fighter jets until last month, too late for the summer's fighting.

A combined arms offensive would typically begin with an artillery barrage followed by tanks to suppress enemy fire, then infantry in armoured fighting vehicles to close on and kill the enemy. Much of the ground Ukraine aims to reconquer is heavily mined, making mine clearance a critical component in securing space to advance.

Ukraine cannot afford to spread itself too thinly but must try to force Russia to do so before choosing where it believes the enemy is most vulnerable. A swift, forceful push would avoid the Russians retreating with their armour intact, only to fight back with artillery, as they did after leaving Kherson city in November.

When the armour intended to punch through Russian fortifications is fielded, there will be no doubt that the counter-offensive is fully under way.



## World



Matching me, matching you Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel co-ordinated their outfits with their children Estelle and Oscar for Sweden's National Day

# Iran boasts of hypersonic missile 'that can breach Israel's defences'

**Iran**  
Richard Spencer  
Middle East Correspondent

Iran has revealed what it says is a hypersonic missile, part of an escalation of threats directed at Israel and a sign of the military pressure it is under from the so-called Zionist entity.

The Islamic republic's military leaders have been claiming for months that they have developed a medium-range ballistic missile as well as a hypersonic missile that can reach at least five times the speed of sound.

They believe a hypersonic missile could defeat Israel's Iron Dome missile-defence system, a prototype that has fended off the less advanced rockets of Palestinian militant groups attacking Israel from Gaza and south Lebanon.

"The precision-guided Fattah [Conqueror] hypersonic missile has a range of 1,400 km [870 miles] and it is capable of penetrating all defence shields," Amirali Hajizadeh, of the Revolutionary Guard's aerospace division, said.

State television said the missile could outwit American as well as Israeli

The Fattah — "Conqueror" — has a range of 870 miles, according to Iranian military leaders. State television said it could reach 15 times the speed of sound



defences and had a maximum velocity of 15 times the speed of sound.

Iran regularly upgrades its missiles, on which it is increasingly dependent for defensive and offensive capabilities. It inherited some United States and Soviet-era Russian jets from the time of the Shah, who was overthrown in 1979, but has largely been able neither to maintain nor replace them.

Its latest ballistic missile, the Khorramshahr-4, was tested two weeks ago. It had a stated range of 1,242 miles: a standard for Iran because it brings Israel within reach but not western Europe, which it is generally keen not to

antagonise. Tel Aviv would also be in range of the latest missile, if fired from western Iran and assuming the claims about its capabilities are accurate.

Given that they have not been tested in combat or in front of a western audience, experts say it is hard to verify Iran's claims. There is no doubt that some of its advanced guided missiles represent a threat, however — at least to its close neighbours.

A drone and missile attack in 2019 hit Saudi oil facilities with an accuracy that alarmed Riyadh and western observers, punching neat holes in storage tanks. There are different claims about

the location of the launchpad, but it was at least 400 miles away.

The announcement of the hypersonic missile, whose test-flight video comprises mostly computer-generated imagery, may be a political statement related to the ever-closer relationship between Tehran and Moscow.

Russia remains the only country to have deployed a hypersonic missile, the Kinzhal, which it has used several times during the war in Ukraine. Kyiv claimed to have shot down all six Kinzhal missiles fired at Ukrainian targets on May 16, although one may have got through and damaged a Patriot anti-missile defence battery on the ground.

Iran wants greater Russian backing in its proxy war with Israel in Syria. Israel has been bombing sites used by Iran and its militia allies such as Hezbollah for years, with little response from the Assad regime or its Russian backers.

Iran does not want to escalate directly so is hoping that Russia, which has good relations with Israel, will apply diplomatic pressure, while the Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah intensify their threats of a direct missile response.

## Pro-Russian president bids for 'life term'

**Central African Republic**  
Anthony Loyd

The Russian-backed president of the Central African Republic is to hold a referendum on constitutional reform that could extend his tenure to a third term in a country widely regarded as the Wagner group's main seat of influence on the continent.

President Touadéra's declaration on Facebook has been condemned by opposition parties and civil rights groups, who say it is part of a Russian plan to consolidate Wagner's control of the diamond-rich nation and expand its influence in neighbouring countries.

He has cited a supposed popular demand to alter the 2016 constitution, which caps the presidency at two terms. The referendum is planned for July 30.

Touadéra, 66, who relies on Wagner fighters to stay in power, was elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020, when his country's civil war was at its peak and fewer than one in three voters could go to the polls because of the violence. He is accused of wanting to in effect stay president for life.

The nation has been torn apart by decades of war and coups. The present conflict broke out in 2013 when a rebel alliance overthrew President Bozizé.

Wagner appeared in the country in 2018 at the request of Touadéra, who signed a bilateral military co-operation agreement with Russia as rebels threatened to overrun Bangui, the capital. The nation's institutions have since been penetrated at every level by a combined Russian military-and-influence operation led by Wagner, which has at least 1,900 personnel there.

## Singapore says neigh to racing

**Singapore**  
Gavin Blair

Horse racing in Singapore is to end after 180 years as the land on which its only racecourse stands is redeveloped for public and private housing by the space-strapped city state.

The final meet at the Singapore Turf Club will be held in October next year, when the course hosts the 100th Grand Singapore Gold Cup.

William Henry Macleod Read, the Scottish merchant, founded the Singapore Sporting Club in 1842 with a small group of associates and racing enthusiasts. Later renamed the Singapore Turf Club, the course was moved in 1933 to a larger site before being relocated in 2000 to Kranji in the island's northern suburbs.

The late Queen, a keen racegoer and horse owner, visited the previous venue in 1972, where she presented the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Cup.

Attendances at the racecourse, which has a capacity of 30,000, have fallen in recent years, while rents for private residential property in Singapore were up nearly 30 per cent last year and are still rising, with capacity squeezed by developments delayed by the pandemic and other factors.

The land is due to be returned to the government in 2027. Support will be provided for the 350 staff to care for and then relocate about 700 racehorses based at the club.

## South Korea-US alliance goes nuclear to deter Kim

**South Korea**  
Gavin Blair Tokyo

South Korea has announced a nuclear alliance with the United States to counter the rising threat of a first strike by Kim Jong-un.

President Yoon said the danger posed by Pyongyang meant that Seoul was now under the protective umbrella of Washington's nuclear deterrent. "North Korea is enhancing its nuclear and missile capabilities, and has legis-

lated the use of nuclear weapons," Yoon said in a speech.

"The South Korea-US alliance has been upgraded to a nuclear-based alliance," he added, without offering further details. At a summit with President Biden in April, the leaders signed an agreement committing the US to bolstering its "extended deterrence" in defence of South Korea.

The deal with the US will involve nuclear-armed submarines docking in South Korea for the first time since the

Cold War, in an effort to inhibit the Kim regime's nuclear ambitions. The Washington declaration seeks to allay Seoul's fears about Pyongyang's nuclear activity and to keep South Korea from restarting its own nuclear programme, which it halted nearly 50 years ago.

Yoon, who was elected last month, indicated this year that South Korea was weighing whether to develop nuclear weapons or ask the US to redeploy them on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea has test-fired missiles

and other weapons at an unprecedented rate this year, including its largest yet intercontinental ballistic missile. Last week it attempted to put its first military satellite into orbit, though Pyongyang acknowledged that the launch rocket had fallen into the sea.

When Biden and Yoon signed their agreement, Washington stressed that it was "crystal clear" there were no plans for permanently "returning tactical or any other kind of nuclear weapon to the Korean peninsula".



# Republicans raise heat on FBI boss over Biden files

## United States

Hugh Tomlinson Washington

Republicans will seek to hold the director of the FBI in contempt of Congress as they hunt for evidence of an “alleged criminal scheme” involving President Biden and his family.

Christopher Wray refused to hand over to the House of Representatives oversight committee a document linked to the investigation into Biden, the president’s son Hunter and the family’s foreign business dealings.

James Comer, Republican chairman of the committee, said the panel would vote tomorrow to open contempt proceedings against Wray. The maximum penalty for contempt of Congress is a year in prison.

Republicans have demanded access to the document, which they claim outlines a scheme involving Biden and an unnamed foreign national during his time as vice-president.

In a court document issued to the FBI last month, Comer said the form was a report on conversations with a confidential source that revealed details “relating to the exchange of money for policy decisions”.

Republicans have sought for years to tie Biden to his son’s business affairs overseas. They have claimed that Hunter Biden used his position on the board of Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company, to influence his father’s policy decisions.

At a closed meeting this week, Wray showed the document to Comer and Jamie Raskin, the senior Democrat on the committee, but the two congressmen emerged with opposing accounts of the evidence contained in it.

Comer said Wray had refused to hand over the form for other members of the committee to see, citing the need to protect an FBI informant named in it. Comer said the claim against Biden “has not been disproven”, adding: “We will now initiate contempt of Congress hearings. The ball is in the FBI’s court.”

Raskin said the document recounted a claim received by the informant from sources in Ukraine that could not be corroborated. He said it amounted to “second-hand hearsay” and that the move to hold Wray in contempt was a stunt “to further promote debunked Republican conspiracy theories”.

Raskin said the allegation surrounding Burisma was first investigated during the Trump presidency and that “the tip that was ultimately determined to be unfounded”.

Wray was appointed by Donald Trump but has become the focus of Republican anger over the FBI’s role in the Justice Department investigation into Trump over classified government documents seized at his Florida home last year. That inquiry is nearing a conclusion, and a criminal indictment of Trump is reported to be close.

Trump, who is running for the presidency for a third time in a potential rematch with Biden next year, has criticised the “weaponisation” of the justice

## Trump’s ex-ally to take him on

Hugh Tomlinson

Chris Christie, the former governor of New Jersey, entered the US presidential race last night, joining a crowded Republican field and positioning himself as the candidate to bring down Donald Trump.

Christie, 60, was once an ally of Trump but is now a vocal critic of the former president. Before his campaign launch last night in the battleground state of New Hampshire, Christie increased his attacks on Trump. The confrontation between the two promises to be a bruising affair that could ignite the



Chris Christie backed Donald Trump in 2016 but has turned against him

race for the presidential nomination. The former governor has a reputation as a political brawler, so the contest with Trump is likely to get personal.

Christie ran against Trump for the Republican nomination in 2016, but dropped out early in the race and backed the real estate mogul. The two worked together during Trump’s presidency but fell out after his defeat to Joe Biden in the 2020 election.

Christie has denounced Trump’s claims that the election was stolen. He has also blamed Trump for infecting him with Covid-19 in the run-up to the 2020 election, putting him in hospital.

system against him. He says the investigations into him are a “witch-hunt”.

Hunter Biden is under federal investigation over alleged tax crimes, but no evidence of wrongdoing by his father has emerged. Trump routinely refers to the “Biden crime family”, without presenting evidence for the claim.

Evidence of Hunter Biden’s business dealings, along with sordid details from his personal life, was found on the hard drive of a laptop he abandoned at a computer repair shop in Delaware. Details from the hard drive were passed to Trump associates and published before the 2020 election by the New York Post. Further claims have emerged since Biden took office.

Raskin told CNN on Monday that Republicans “keep changing the demand in order to find some reason to find fault with FBI director Wray”. He added that the investigation was ultimately designed “to get Donald Trump’s poll numbers up... It’s all about the 2024 campaign.”



CSULBSHARKLAB

conducted the two-year study for Cal State Long Beach, said: “The juveniles were often observed within 50 yards of where the waves break, putting surfers and stand-up paddleboarders in the closest proximity to sharks at the aggregation sites. Most of the time water users didn’t even know the sharks were there, but we could easily see them from the air.”

The scientists did not record any attacks.

There were 209 shark incidents in California from 1950 to November last year, according to the state’s department of fish and wildlife. An incident is classed as when a shark touches a swimmer or their surfboard.

Christopher Lowe, professor of marine biology at Cal State Long Beach and director of the school’s Shark Lab, said he hoped the study would change perceptions of sharks, which have been widely viewed with fright since Steven Spielberg’s film terrified a generation of cinemagoers in the summer of 1975.

“I think people will be shocked by these findings — we never expected to see so many encounters every day with no incidents,” Lowe said.

“This study may change perceptions of the risk sharks pose to people that share the ocean with them.”

Scientists have for decades claimed that the majority of great white shark attacks on humans are probably mistakes, with the predators confusing swimmers and surfers for seals.

Rex has gone as far as suggesting that sharks are starting to see humans as “not food”, which would explain the lack of attacks near California despite the close proximity with swimmers.

“But that’s such a hard conclusion to make, because we still don’t really know why sharks bite people,” he told the Los Angeles Times.

## Ignore Jaws, it’s safe to go back in the water

The hapless mayor of the New England resort town Amity Island in Jaws has long been vilified for attempting to

keep the beaches open despite a series of shark attacks (Keiran Southern writes). Now it seems that Larry Vaughn may have had some grounds for dismissing the danger: juvenile great white sharks are more common around swimmers and surfers in California than previously thought, according to a study.

At sites off the coasts of Santa Barbara and San Diego, the apex predators

Sharks were seen near people off California on 97 per cent of days studied, with no attacks

were near people on 97 per cent of the days surveyed. Experts used drones to monitor the water where young great white sharks “aggregate” in groups near beaches before they reach maturity and become more solitary.

Patrick Rex, the graduate student who

# State-funded religious school clash

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

A school board in Oklahoma has approved what would be the first publicly funded religious school in America, a Catholic institution that looks likely to cause a legal battle over the separation of church and state.

Despite a warning from the state’s attorney-general that the move was unconstitutional, the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board voted 3-2 to approve the application by the Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma. Charter schools are independently managed but funded by the government.

If established, St Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual Charter School will be open to students across the state from kindergarten to the age of 18, and would introduce religious teachings alongside academic subjects. It could open next

year. Opponents have said that they plan to challenge the vote and uphold the constitution. The first amendment, passed in 1791, says that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”.

Gentner Drummond, Oklahoma’s attorney-general, said the decision to use taxpayer dollars to fund a religious school was unconstitutional and could result in hefty legal bills. “The approval of any publicly funded religious school is contrary to Oklahoma law and not in the best interest of taxpayers,” he said.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State denounced the move. Rachel Laser, its chief executive, said: “This is a sea change for American democracy. Americans United will work with our Oklahoma and national partners to take ... legal action to fight

this decision and defend the separation of church and state that’s promised in the Oklahoma and US constitutions.”

In a nationwide battle over parental rights, Republicans have been fighting for alternatives to public schools, which they claim push progressive politics onto their children. Conservatives have called for parents to be offered vouchers or tax credits that would allow them to put their children into private education, often at religious schools.

Teachers’ unions say that allowing taxpayer money to go elsewhere strips public schools of resources, leaving disadvantaged students worse off.

Kevin Stitt, Oklahoma’s Republican governor, signed a bill this year that would give parents a tax incentive to send their children to private schools. He said the vote was “a win for religious liberty and education freedom”.



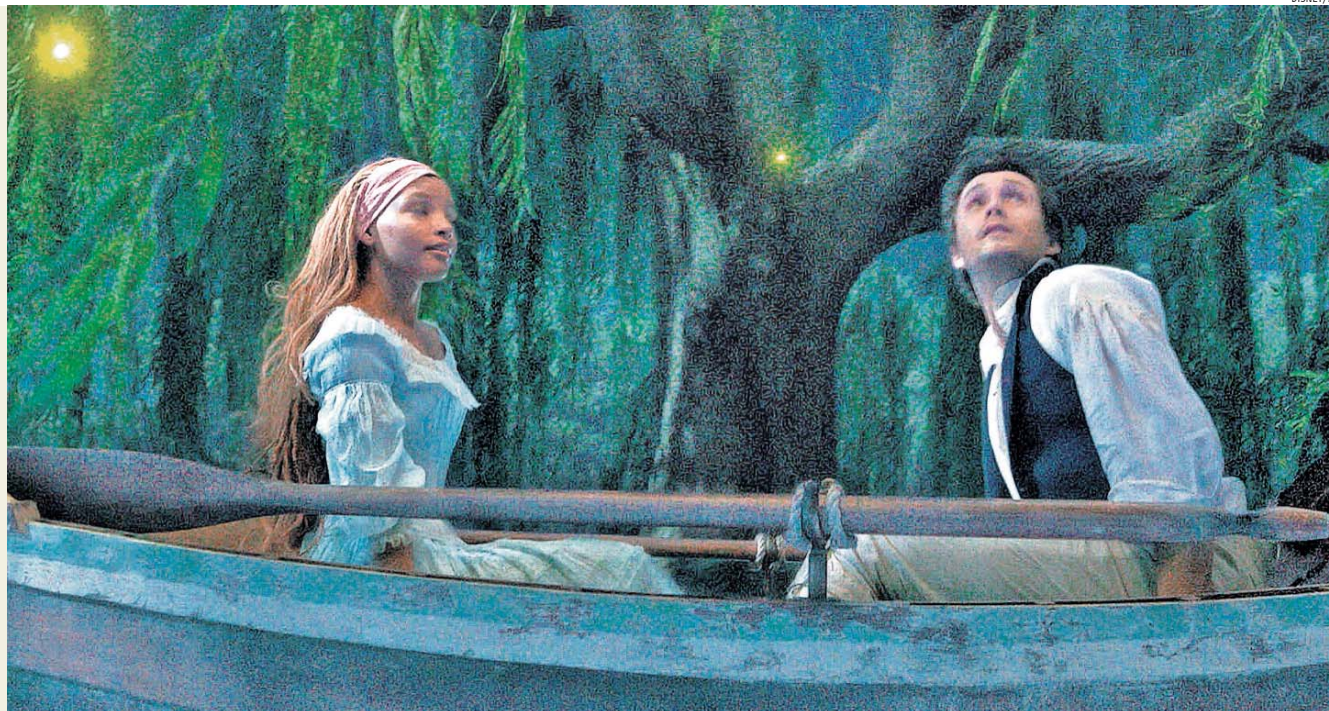
## World

## Disney's Mermaid sinks in China

Disney's live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid* has flopped at the box office in China, where it has been pilloried for the "forced inclusion of minorities in classic films" (Keiran Southern writes).

The film, which cost a reported \$250 million to produce and a further \$140 million to market, has performed strongly in North America but has underwhelmed internationally since its release last month, and may struggle to break even.

The strength of the outcry against the casting of Halle Bailey, a 23-year-old singer, is



DISNEY/AP

The casting of Halle Bailey as Ariel, with Jonah Hauer-King as Prince Eric, has proved controversial

about racism, but its lazy and irresponsible storytelling strategy," it said. "It takes a leap of imagination to accept the new cast."

Deadline, a Hollywood trade website, reported last week that *The Little Mermaid's* poor showing in international markets left it in danger of failing to break even.

The scale of its failure in China is laid bare when its performance is compared with previous Disney remakes. *The Lion King* made \$120 million there when it was released in 2019, and *Aladdin* took \$53.5 million.

Rob Marshall, director of *The Little Mermaid*, said Bailey was not cast because she was black. "We just were looking for the best actor for the role, period," he told Entertainment Weekly.

said to have taken Disney by surprise. Audiences in China and South Korea flooded the film with poor reviews,

which has been reflected at the box office. *The Little Mermaid* grossed less than \$3.6 million in its first ten days of

release in China, according to Box Office Mojo — by far the worst performance by a Disney live-action

remake in the country. The Global Times, a Chinese newspaper owned by the ruling Communist Party, ran

an op-ed criticising Disney's diversity push. "Disney's forced inclusion of minorities in classic films is not

## Sánchez 'eyes Nato job' if he loses snap election

### Spain

Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

The Spanish prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, is formulating an escape route from politics if he is defeated in national elections in a few weeks: become the next head of Nato.

Sánchez called a snap vote for July 23, which prompted El Mundo and other media outlets to suggest that the date was chosen to give him time to submit his candidacy for the Nato job if he lost.

Nato members would like to settle the question of the successor to Jens Stoltenberg, its secretary-general, before a summit in Lithuania in mid-July. However, there may not be time to resolve the issue before then because the alliance is struggling to find a new leader. Stoltenberg is due to step down in October.

Several European countries are understood to see Mette Frederiksen, 45, the prime minister of Denmark, as the strongest contender to replace Stoltenberg. Ben Wallace, 53, the British defence secretary, and Kaja Kallas, 45, the prime minister of

Estonia, are among others frequently mentioned as potential candidates.

Sánchez has denied rumours that he is interested — only fuelling speculation that he plans to apply. He brought forward the national election from December this year after his Socialist party suffered heavy defeats in regional and municipal elections.

Surveys suggest that the main opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) is likely to win the parliamentary election but will need an alliance with the hard-right Vox party to obtain a working majority.

Reports have pointed to Sánchez's supposed Nato ambitions by highlighting his campaign to cultivate links with the White House. In 2021, President Biden gave Sánchez a brisk audience while walking between meetings at a Nato summit. Sold by Sánchez's team as a high-level bilateral

Pedro Sánchez has led Spain since 2018

meeting, the encounter was ridiculed as a humiliation in Spain.

However, Sánchez's international profile benefited from his hosting of a Nato summit dealing with Ukraine in Madrid last year. He then kicked off campaigning for last month's regional and municipal elections by visiting Biden at the White House, where the president hailed his international "leadership".

Analysts also suggest that his case for presenting himself as a candidate may have been strengthened by the government's agreement to the expansion of US capabilities at the Rota naval base in Cadiz and its pro-Morocco change of policy regarding Western Sahara, aligning it with Washington's position.

Sánchez has dismissed the speculation about his candidacy as "fake news". Asked about the reports, a senior Spanish official said: "First there is an election."



## Politician charged over Nazi slogan

### Germany

David Crossland Berlin

A leading member of Germany's radical right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) party has been charged with using a banned slogan employed by Nazi stormtroopers.

Prosecutors are investigating Björn Höcke, the parliamentary group leader of the AfD in the eastern state of Thuringia, for allegedly saying "Alles für Deutschland" (All for Germany) at the end of a campaign speech to an audience of 250 people in the town of Merseburg in 2021.

The term was the slogan of the

Sturmabteilung, the paramilitary arm of the Nazi Party, whose members were also known as brownshirts. Its use is banned in Germany.

Höcke, 51, has criticised the construction of the Berlin Holocaust Memorial and called for a "180-degree turnaround" in German historical remembrance.

He has also likened the Allied bombing of Dresden in 1945 to the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and said Germans still had the mindset of a "brutally vanquished people". A court ruled in 2019 that he can legally be called a fascist.

The state prosecutor's office, which

brought the charges before the Halle regional court in mid-May, believes that the former history teacher was aware of the origin and meaning of "Alles für Deutschland".

Höcke's lawyer said his use of the term did not warrant a prosecution.

Support for the AfD has doubled in the past year and recent polls put the party level with the ruling Social Democrats at 19 per cent, amid dissatisfaction with inflation and rising immigration. It is the strongest party in eastern Germany, where polls show it at 26 per cent before elections in three eastern states, Brandenburg, Thuringia and Saxony, next year.

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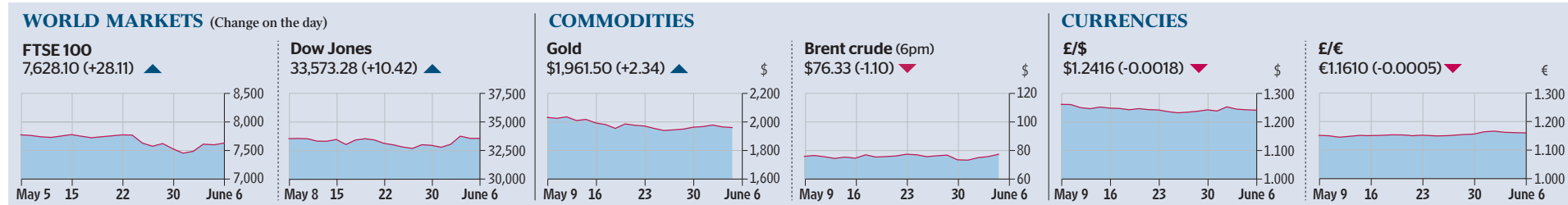
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# Business



## Ethical funds suffer their 'worst month yet' for withdrawals

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

British investors dumped funds badged as sustainable or ethical at their fastest pace ever last month, according to a snapshot of fund-buying behaviour.

There was a net outflow of £304 million in May from so-called ESG equity funds — investment products weighted towards companies meeting environmental, social or governance rules — with more investors redeeming than

buying into them. ESG has been a potent selling tool for the funds industry, with a net £6.7 billion injected into ESG-badged funds in 2022, £11.2 billion in 2021 and £6.7 billion in 2020. Most months have experienced strong net purchases by end-investors.

Calastone, the global funds network that compiled the industry-wide figures, said: "ESG equity funds suffered their worst ever month, shedding £304 million of capital. May was only

the second month during which investors have been net sellers in this sector in more than five years."

The retreat appears to have been partly about pulling out of all kinds of equities as much as a withdrawal from ESG specifically as investors sought the haven of money market funds amid interest rate wobbles and the aftermath of the Silicon Valley Bank collapse. Net flows into all types of equity funds slowed to £303 million in May, down

from £1.4 billion in April and £960 million in March.

Edward Glyn, Calastone's head of global markets, said: "Yes, we've seen a dampening of enthusiasm for ESG funds in the last month, but it is too soon to predict a structural shift [in investors' behaviour]. I don't think it is going to be an end to the ESG success story."

ESG-badged funds generally have produced sub-par performances in the

past 18 months because they tend to be underweight in oil and gas stocks, which have generated very strong returns. An above-average weighting to technology stocks has hurt some of them, too, although that effect has reversed in recent months as many of America's biggest technology stocks have staged a dramatic recovery. Another factor in reducing demand for ESG-badged funds could be growing

Continued on page 34

## We'll repay your faith, pledges CBI

Lobby group wins confidence vote after scandals

Alex Ralph, Helen Cahill

The CBI has survived a crunch membership vote over the troubled business lobby group's future after a workplace misconduct scandal.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the CBI's members at its head office in the City of London yesterday, members said they strongly backed its plans to reform the group.

The organisation said it had received support from 93 per cent of the 371 votes cast, with 7 per cent against and 23 abstentions. It did not disclose what proportion of its total membership had backed the organisation in the vote.

Rain Newton-Smith, the director-general and former chief economist parachuted in two months ago to lead the group out of the crisis, said that "after an incredibly tough period, I'm deeply grateful for the faith shown in us by our members". Newton-Smith, 47, vowed that the CBI would "work tirelessly to repay the faith shown in us".

Members of the lobby group each had one vote, whether as a direct member or through a trade association, and the vote had been independently counted and verified, it said.

The 58-year-old royal charter organisation, which claims to speak for 190,000 businesses throughout the UK — including on behalf of trade association members — has been fighting for its future after the government and some of Britain's biggest companies cut ties with it in April in the wake of serious allegations, including sexual misconduct and rape.

The business body had suspended its

policy and membership activity, but it plans to lift that after the vote, which determined whether it went ahead with planned reforms or was wound down. It had been taking insolvency advice.

The CBI consulted its members and issued a prospectus last week ahead of the vote, where members were asked whether the changes and commitments to reform its "governance, culture and purpose give you the confidence you need to support the CBI". The lobby group has promised to overhaul its board and will choose a new president to replace Brian McBride, the former boss of Amazon UK, as part of the changes.

Despite the outcome, the CBI will continue to consult on job losses, having suffered a drop in its membership, which makes up the bulk of its income. The crisis at the group has raised uncertainty over the business community's engagement with government ahead of the general election next year and rival groups, such as the British Chambers of Commerce, have been manoeuvring to fill the void. The CBI believes, however, that the vote has given it a mandate to re-engage with government and opposition parties.

A government spokeswoman said: "While this is a matter for the CBI and their internal processes, we will continue to engage with businesses on a case-by-case basis and business groups where appropriate. The CBI is responsible for rebuilding the trust and confidence of their membership and that remains a matter for them."

Ahead of the meeting, members and

Continued on page 33



Cutting its cloth N Brown, the fashion group whose brand ambassadors include Davina McCall and Amanda Holden, warned of a "challenging market" after reporting an annual loss of £71 million and said it would keep a tight control of costs Page 39

## Coinbase sued by American regulator

Callum Jones  
US Business Correspondent

America's senior market watchdog is suing Coinbase, alleging that it has operated illegally without registering with the regulator.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has accused Coinbase, the country's largest cryptocurrency trading platform, of having "commingled and unlawfully offered" exchange, broker-dealer and clearing house services. Shares in the business fell by 12.1 per cent, or \$7.10, to close at \$51.61 in New York last night.

Coinbase, valued at about \$11 billion, has made billions of dollars by unlawfully facilitating the purchase and sale of crypto asset securities since at least 2019, according to the regulator. The

company said in response that the SEC's approach to crypto was hurting America's competitiveness and it vowed to continue "business as usual".

It is the second time in as many days that the agency has launched legal action against one of the crypto sector's leading players. On Monday it sued Binance and its founder, alleging that the platform had commingled customers' funds and had operated an illegal exchange in the United States. Binance pledged to defend its platform "vigorously".

In a complaint filed with the federal courts, the SEC argues that Coinbase's business merges three traditional market functions — that of a broker, exchange and clearing agency — but says the company has never registered to provide such services. Brian

Armstrong, Coinbase chief executive, said that the commission had reviewed its business before it went public in 2021. "There is no path to 'come in and register' — we tried, repeatedly — so we don't list securities," he wrote on Twitter. "We reject the vast majority of assets we review."

"Instead of publishing a clear rule book, the SEC has taken a regulation by enforcement approach that is harming America. If we need to avail ourselves of the courts to get clarity, so be it."

Gary Gensler, the commission's chairman, said: "Coinbase's alleged failures deprive investors of critical protections, including rulebooks that prevent fraud and manipulation, proper disclosure, safeguards against conflicts of interest and routine inspection by the SEC."



## Business

## Need to know

**1** The CBI has survived a crunch vote over the troubled business lobby group's future after a workplace misconduct scandal. At an extraordinary general meeting of at its head office in the City of London, members said they strongly backed plans to reform the group. **Page 31**

**2** British investors dumped funds badged as sustainable or ethical at their fastest pace on record in May, according to a survey. There was a net outflow of £304 million from so-called ESG equity funds, with more investors redeeming than buying into them. **Page 31**

**3** The US Securities and Exchange Commission is suing Coinbase, alleging it has operated illegally without registering. The financial watchdog accused America's largest cryptocurrency trading platform of having "commingled and unlawfully offered" exchange, broker-dealer and clearing house services. **Page 31**

**4** Shell is quitting the domestic electricity and gas market, blaming volatility in the energy sector and a lack of government consistency in its dealings with the industry. Shell Energy Retail has 1.34 million household customers, more than 4 per cent of the market.

**5** The Competition and Markets Authority has more than doubled its reward to informants who help it to clamp down on illegal cartels. The watchdog said the maximum reward would increase from £100,000 to £250,000.

**6** Housebuilding activity contracted last month at the fastest pace since the first Covid lockdown three years ago. Developers are building fewer houses, according to the latest construction purchasing managers' index from S&P Global and the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply. **Page 34**

**7** About half of the world's biggest companies plan to shed office space. A survey of 350 businesses, by Knight Frank, the property agent, showed that among large groups aiming to reduce space by 2026, most were looking to shed between 10 per cent and 20 per cent. **Page 36**

**8** The new chief executive of British American Tobacco has committed to sticking with the company's strategy, but noted weaknesses in its key US combustibles market and in the performance of glo, its tobacco heating product. **Page 37**

**9** Suppliers to Asos have started to sever ties with the retailer after credit insurers withdrew cover amid concerns over its falling profits. The online fashion pioneer fell out of the FTSE 250 last week. **Page 39**

**10** The energy regulator has fined SSE £9.78 million for overcharging during efforts to reduce output to stop the electricity grid becoming overloaded. The penalty came after an investigation into excessive payments it secured from National Grid. **Page 41**

# Scandal-hit CBI hopes all will be as right as Rain

The lobby group's new chief executive has had the toughest of introductions to her job, reports Alex Ralph

In Wytham Woods, ringed by the River Thames and overlooking Oxford's spires, Rain Newton-Smith will try to unwind on Sunday by taking part in a local community fundraising run.

While the training programme of the new director-general of the CBI understandably has not been "up to scratch", Newton-Smith will hope that the beautiful route can provide some respite from an ugly period.

Since her fast-track appointment as head of the CBI in April, the former Bank of England economist and mother of four daughters has been in a race to save the embattled 58-year-old business lobby group from a sexual misconduct scandal that has brought it to its knees.

Newton-Smith, 47, who lives in Oxfordshire, embarked on a whirlwind tour of television and radio stations seeking to make the case for the CBI's survival before yesterday's "nerve-racking" vote by its members on its future.

The crisis has dominated her life in recent weeks, with her girls walking

past a BBC broadcast van on their way to school.

Issuing the prospectus for "a renewed CBI" last week before the extraordinary general meeting — and whose front cover featured a serene wooded landscape — Newton-Smith said "the past few weeks have been very challenging for everyone at the CBI. And I include myself in that. We're used to helping our members through crises, not being deep in our own."

She said she had come back to lead the CBI out of the crisis "because I believe in the talent of our people and because I have seen first-hand how powerful a collective business voice, across regions, nations and sectors, can be in driving change across our society".

She was parachuted in to replace Tony Danker, who had been dismissed as director-general after an investigation over separate earlier complaints of misconduct that emerged in March.

Danker, 51, has claimed he has been made the "fall guy" for the scandal.

Newton-Smith returned to the CBI at great personal risk to her own career, having left the group after more than eight years as its chief economist to take a senior role at Barclays, where she was managing director for strategy and policy, sustainability and environmental, social and corporate governance. She had departed the CBI after helping to

**Rain Newton-Smith has galvanised staff at the CBI**



## Tainted by crisis

**January**  
Complaint made against Tony Danker, below, CBI director-general. No action taken after investigation

**March 2**  
CBI says it is made aware of new reports regarding Danker's workplace conduct



steer the organisation's approach to supporting businesses through the pandemic and Brexit.

One former colleague, who worked closely with her, said: "To leave a comfortable position to take on the challenge of the CBI, given what happened, speaks enormously to not only the strength of her character but also her belief in the CBI as an institution."

The CBI faced a backlash from senior industry figures for its decision to turn to insiders. The director-general job

was not advertised and the appointment process was opaque.

Ann Francke, 64, chief executive of the Chartered Management Institute, said the lobby group had "remained within its own boardroom to identify what actually needs to change, and how". Baroness Wheatcroft, 71, a peer and a former director at Barclays, said the decision "does not seem to follow the processes the CBI would advocate its members follow".

Nevertheless, Newton-Smith was

## Shell abandons home retail energy supply market

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

Shell is the latest company to announce that it is quitting the domestic electricity and gas market, blaming volatility in the energy sector and a lack of government consistency in its dealings with the industry.

After a five-month review and only five years after entering the market, the oil major said it was putting its home energy retail business up for sale.

Shell Energy Retail Ltd has 1.34 million household customers, more than 4 per cent of the market. It also has 500,000 household broadband subscribers, a legacy of its 2021 acquisition of a business set up by the Post Office. The operation employs about 2,000 people — 1,400 on the Shell payroll in the UK and external contractors. There was no immediate clarity on their fate in the event of a takeover.

A Shell spokesman said it was walking away from domestic supply because of "market conditions" — general energy prices have risen amid fears of supply shortages as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict — and because Britain was in "need of a stable fiscal regime and policy framework".

Customers on fixed deals with Shell may have to pay exit penalties if they do not wish to stay with the new owner of the business. However, it has been common practice to give acquired customers the freedom to leave without exit fees.

Early candidates to acquire the business include Ovo and Octopus, which have challenged and overtaken the market positions of the likes of EDF, E.on and ScottishPower. It has been reported that Ovo Energy has been considering an offer for the Shell business. If successful, it would leapfrog



**Shell launched a strategic review of its European retail businesses in January**

Octopus Energy and become the second-largest UK home energy provider after British Gas.

Shell fully entered the domestic energy supply market in 2018 when it took over First Utility, another would-be disruptor. Shell Energy has been

picking up customers from small suppliers after a rash of failures in the sector, but it racked up pre-tax losses of at least £300 million. It blamed its 2021 loss on "market conditions" and "increased costs as a result of supplier failures in the market and the inability to pass on higher energy costs" after the introduction of a price cap on standard tariffs in 2019.

The disposal will include Shell's household supply businesses in the Netherlands and Germany.

"A sales process is already under way, with the intent to reach an agreement with a potential buyer in the coming months," Shell said in a statement. "Nothing will change for our customers during the sales process. We are committed to ensuring a seamless transfer to a buyer capable of delivering on its obligations, including our intent to maximise employment."



**March 6**  
Danker steps aside, law firm Fox Williams appointed after details of original complaint reported in the Guardian

**Chief accused of 'sexual harassment'**

**I am truly sorry, says CBI chief sacked over sex pest claims**

**April 3**  
More allegations reported, not involving Danker, including that a woman was raped at CBI summer boat party in 2019, along with claims that more than a dozen women were victims of sexual misconduct

**April 11**  
CBI sacks Tony Danker. Three other CBI employees suspended. Rain Newton-Smith re-hired as director-general

**April 19**  
Danker says 'I've been made the fall guy'. CBI president Brian McBride says Danker is being 'selective'

**April 20**  
Second Fox Williams report into alleged 'toxic culture' published

**April 21**  
Second alleged rape reported. By the end of the day more than 50 companies resign from CBI

**May 19**  
John Allan, former CBI president and chairman of Tesco, steps down after The Times reported allegations about his behaviour towards women, including at a CBI dinner in 2019

**May 31**  
CBI outlines proposed reforms

**June 6**  
CBI extraordinary general meeting for vote on its future

**That dress suits your figure, CBI president told colleague'**

**CBI suspends activities as firms flee after another rape allegation**

seen as a unifying candidate and one who could be installed quickly. "For the CBI's very survival to be given a shot, you had to have somebody with existing credibility with membership," the source said. "Rain did, having been the chief economist for so long and having presented to the CBI board and I'm sure boards across corporate Britain. So she was someone with a genuine corporate reputation and credibility. And for her to make herself available in such a short space of time, that was incredibly

helpful. She deserves enormous credit for taking on the job in those circumstances."

The challenge of returning to the storm at the CBI was intensified by the grief from the death of her Canadian-born father, Bill Newton-Smith, an Oxford philosophy don who was expelled from Czechoslovakia during the Cold War and later worked closely with George Soros, the tycoon and philanthropist. Her father, who, as The Times obituary noted last month, loved

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

We'll repay your faith, says CBI

former members privately had said that the CBI was likely to secure a majority vote as companies that quit the organisation were not able to vote. Aviva, NatWest, KPMG and the John Lewis Partnership are among those who departed. Several suspended their memberships, such as PwC and Rolls-Royce. SSE, the energy group, was among those to back the CBI having been convinced by a letter signed by Siemens, Microsoft UK and Esso and published in The Times backing the CBI's overhaul.

Speaking at the meeting, McBride said: "We've all learnt lessons. I hope we don't get the chance to put those learnings into action because hopefully you wouldn't go through this again."

In a joint statement, nine trade bodies, including the Recruitment & Employment Confederation, the British Retail Consortium and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said they welcomed the outcome as "our associations benefit from an overarching business organisation representing our collective views".

the outdoors and nature and often considered the world through this prism, died of throat cancer on April 8, aged 79.

There are signs that she has succeeded in galvanising staff, who were left in disarray by the scandal. Lord Bilimoria, 61, the Cobra beer tycoon who is CBI's vice-president, said she was "very approachable and had a friendly manner and everyone likes her. I've never heard anyone say a bad word against her and, as an economist, is very well respected. She was also respected by government because she'd be in meetings with the Treasury and chancellor on a regular basis, including when we helped to form the furlough scheme."

Newton-Smith was seen as a rising star. After gaining a degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford and a master's in economics from the London School of Economics, the early stages of her career included nine years at the Bank of England, where she prepared global forecast reports for its ratesetting committee.

She was a "young global leader" at the World Economic Forum in 2012 and featured in a list of 35 women under 35 by Management Today two years earlier, where it noted she was a triathlete. She later led the emerging markets division at Oxford Economics, the consultancy, where she was an expert on China's economy, before joining the CBI in 2014 when John Cridland was director-general. While she worked at the CBI, Newton-Smith was a member of The Times' shadow monetary policy committee.

# £250,000 reward for cartel whistleblowers

Robert Miller

The competition watchdog has more than doubled its reward to potential informants who can help it to clamp down on illegal cartels.

The Competition and Markets Authority said that the maximum reward would increase from £100,000 to £250,000. Illegal cartels involve businesses agreeing not to compete in order to keep prices higher for customers.

The regulator is running its "cheating or competing" campaign to provide advice for people and businesses to help them to spot and report anti-competitive practices. It said that businesses participating in cartels, knowing them to be illegal, "often go to great lengths to keep the cartel hidden and secret. This makes them difficult to detect and so harder to bring to an end."

Michael Grenfell, executive director

of enforcement at the authority, said: "Cartels can cause serious damage to their customers, whether businesses or individual people, weakening price competitiveness — a particular concern at a time of cost of living pressures. The CMA's job is to stamp out illegal

## 10%

of annual turnover is the maximum fine for businesses involved in cartels

cartels, but because cartels are generally conducted in secret we need to encourage people to come forward and provide us with the information we need to crack down on cartels and protect people and businesses from the harm they cause.

"For these reasons, we are today

increasing the maximum financial reward for informants and whistleblowers who provide us with valuable information about cartels so that we can take action."

Businesses found to have been involved in cartels can be fined up to 10 per cent of annual turnover and individuals directly involved can face up to five years in prison.

The regulator said it had uncovered cartels in a wide range of industries, such as construction, healthcare and consumer products and services, and that the enhanced reward would help it to build on these cases.

The reward for reporting on cartel behaviour is separate to the watchdog's leniency programme, in which firms or individuals involved in such activity can escape sanctions if they come forward with information, provided conditions are met.

# Skills gap is igniting aerospace fears

BUSINESS COMMENTARY Tracey Boles



As the aerospace industry gears up for the Paris Air Show this month, the UK is set to be well represented. Its firms can be rightly proud of building wings for Airbus jets and the rear fuselage for the F-35 Lightning II fighter, as well as their involvement on the four-nation Eurofighter Typhoon. The biggest player, BAE Systems, which managed to deliver a submarine in the pandemic, also has delivered for shareholders with its shares up 18 per cent over one year and by 45 per cent over five.

Yet, along with the defence sector, this key industry is facing a yawning skills gap, with thousands of roles unfilled. Across the 1,200 members represented by ADS, the trade association, there are more than 10,000 vacancies. Three quarters of ADS members, which also include security and space firms, see the workforce and skills shortages as having a big impact on business. These companies collectively employ 417,000 people and have a combined turnover of £82 billion.

The gap comes as demand for workers increases on back of the war in Ukraine, with competition for staff hotting up internationally. Some of France's biggest defence companies, including the jet maker Dassault Aviation and the missile company MBDA, are stepping up their recruitment drives as they try to fulfil growing order books.

Technological innovations, such as the deployment of AI and machine learning, also mean keeping pace with ever-evolving skills, as do the new era of flight and the sustainability agenda. ADS believes apprenticeships can help to bridge the gap. Kevin Craven, its chief executive, calls them "an exceptionally important pathway into high-wage, high-skilled and valuable careers in the sectors we represent".

The organisation is liaising with the government to highlight several reforms to the apprenticeship levy. For example, the industry would like to see an extension to the time that employers have to use the funds from 24 to 36 months, to align planning cycles to the timeframes allocated for the levy. Others believe this does not go far enough. SecureCloud+, an SME that provides secure communications for government departments including the Ministry of Defence, is among those whose expansion is constrained by skills shortages, despite good relationships with technically focused universities.

In Reading, where it is based, Peter Williamson, its chief executive, is up against the likes of Microsoft when recruiting data analysts and software developers. He believes the industry needs to attract more women. Key to this is sparking the interest of girls in STEM subjects at an early age and offering financial incentives for them to study the subjects at tertiary level. Making technology visas available to a wider range of people also could help to fix the skills shortage, he says.

Such jewels in Britain's manufacturing base must not be allowed to lose their lustre, especially if ministers are serious about global Britain. But the UK does not have an

industrial strategy to speak of. While the government is stuck in wait-and-see mode, other countries move forward in supporting their leading industries.

## Shell's big turn-off

Since 2021 it has been lights out for dozens of UK energy suppliers amid rising wholesale costs. The instability created by the failures has dismayed executives in the energy industry, who rightly saw it as an inappropriate operating environment for an essential utility.

Yesterday Shell threw in the towel on its retail business in Britain, the Netherlands and Germany, putting it up for sale after a review. The energy group had to inject £1.2 billion in cash and loans into the British division of the business so it could meet its liabilities. Like other suppliers, it has struggled as prices have soared. Shell pointed to these market conditions and added that the UK needed a stable fiscal regime and policy framework. Its exit raises many questions, notably do we have the right regulatory framework to support business?

Prices may have come down for now, but secure and affordable supply could easily be threatened again. Ukraine may have been a wake-up call and energy handouts may have lessened the pain, but energy and its regulation are not going to go away as issues that need urgent attention. Failure to tackle them properly — by which I mean more than heat pumps — could make dire warnings of blackouts a reality or result in bills staying higher for longer. The crisis we have just been through could be the portent of more to come unless we boost supply and better manage demand.

## Out-of-office era

Working from home has set the cat among the pigeons.

Knight Frank has found that about half of the biggest corporate employers plan to reduce the amount of office space they occupy over the next three years (report, page 36). As well as having implications for the commercial property market, this suggests firms are catching up with the wants and needs of employees. A separate survey by Bloomberg has suggested that roughly one in two people who work in finance would change jobs — or already have — if their managers required them to spend more time in the office.

Now here's a neat solution for bosses who want to attract workers back: make sure you have the best and most sustainable offices. Brookfield Properties has found that 93 per cent of those working in an environmentally friendly office feel happier in their job. Having once worked in a building that had been slated for demolition and whose kitchen was falling off the wall while questionable materials dropped from the ceiling, I second that.

tracey.boles@thetimes.co.uk  
Alistair Osborne is away



## Business

# Paragon's record profits ease fears about buy-to-let market

Ben Martin Banking Editor

One of Britain's biggest mortgage lenders to landlords has defied concerns about the health of the buy-to-let property market by publishing record half-year profits.

Paragon Banking Group's results come despite the recent sharp rise in interest rates, which had fuelled fears that landlords would retreat from the sector in the face of higher borrowing costs.

However, Paragon said its mortgage pipeline was recovering from a wobble suffered last autumn, when the mini-

budget fiasco sent shockwaves through financial markets.

In a sign of confidence, it has raised its forecast for mortgage lending this year to a range of £1.75 billion to £1.9 billion, having previously suggested at least £1.6 billion. That includes just over £1 billion of new mortgage lending achieved in the six months to the end of March, up 19.1 per cent on the same period a year earlier. Underlying profits climbed by 22.2 per cent to a record £128.9 million. In response, shares in the FTSE 250 company jumped up by 9.4 per cent, or 47½p, to 551p.

Paragon is viewed as a key barometer

of the buy-to-let market, which it helped to pioneer when it was founded in 1985 as National Home Loans Corporation. It has since branched out into other lending, including motor finance and small business loans.

Its biggest portfolio remains in buy-to-let, though. Total loans to customers stood at about £14.6 billion at the end of March, of which buy-to-let accounted for £12.4 billion. Its mortgage lending is focused almost entirely on professional landlords who have more than three properties.

Nigel Terrington, 63, Paragon's chief executive who has run the business for

28 years, said: "I don't think it's necessarily well understood how resilient the landlord community is." He said that while they there may be anecdotal signs that higher interest rates are pushing some amateur landlords to sell, professional buy-to-let investors "are the net buyer in the market. These are guys who are long-term property investors, they're highly experienced, they've got multiple-property portfolios that they're dealing with and there's a significant level of rental demand exceeding the supply."

The arrears rate on Paragon's buy-to-let book edged up to 0.25 per cent from

0.15 per cent at the end of September, still at a "modest" level and below the national figure of 0.46 per cent reported by UK Finance, the trade body.

The company's net interest margin — the difference between the rates it charges on loans and the rates it pays depositors — rose to 2.95 per cent from 2.57 per cent a year earlier. It now expects to achieve a full-year margin of about 3 per cent, compared with its earlier prediction of at least 2.89 per cent, after it was boosted by the Bank of England's higher base interest rate of 4.5 per cent, up from 0.1 per cent in November 2021.

CHRIS RATCLIFFE/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

## Decline in new houses 'sends chill down spine of the economy'

Tom Howard

Housebuilding activity contracted last month at the fastest pace since the first Covid lockdown three years ago.

With the property market having been laid low since last autumn by a combination of soaring mortgage rates and a cost of living crunch, developers are building fewer houses, according to the latest construction purchasing managers' index from S&P Global and the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply.

Work on residential building projects fell for a sixth month in a row in May, with the reading for activity in the housebuilding industry dropping to 42.7. Outside of the pandemic, that marks the lowest figure in more than 14 years. Anything below 50 represents a contraction.

John Glen, chief economist at the institute, said the drop-off in residential development, a big employer throughout Britain, "will send a chill down the spine of the UK economy".

Kelly Boorman, head of construction at RSM UK, the accounting firm, said the latest fall in housebuilding "does not come as a surprise" and that, with more interest rate rises expected, there were further headwinds facing builders, who were "pulling back on projects to protect their margins".

All the big housebuilders reacted to

the sudden, sharp fall in demand towards the end of last year by slowing their construction rates in order to preserve cash and ensure they were building only what they could sell.

Despite the decline in residential development, the PMI survey showed that total construction activity in Britain had risen to a measure of 51.6 in May. That was up from 51.1 in April and was marginally better than the 51.5 reading that economists had expected. The overall figure has been above the 50 mark, the point between expansion and contraction, for four months in a row.

Increases in commercial building and civil engineering activity drove the improvement, with companies in those subsectors pointing to a "gradual turnaround in confidence" among clients, which were starting to make decisions more quickly.

Construction companies continue to win new business, with the overall rise in their order books at the strongest level recorded for more than a year, despite the disappointing showing from housebuilders.

"May's data highlighted a mixed picture across the UK construction sector, as solid growth rates in commercial and civil engineering activity contrasted with a steeper downturn in housebuilding," Tim Moore, economics director at S&P Global Market



Housebuilders have slowed the pace of their developments under pressure from higher mortgage rates and the cost of living

Intelligence, which compiles the survey, said. "Rising demand among corporate clients and contract awards on infrastructure projects underpinned the fastest rise in new orders since April 2022."

The supplies and costs of materials and labour have been important factors affecting the construction industry in recent years, although both "improved considerably" last month. Lead times

for the delivery of materials came down at the fastest rate since August 2009, while prices inflation fell to its weakest for two and a half years. Respondents suggested suppliers were trying to compete for business amid a wider softening demand as construction firms run down excess stocks.

Looking ahead, the industry remains generally upbeat about its growth prospects for the coming year, although

optimism is waning somewhat. Of those companies polled, 45 per cent expected their output to increase over the next year, but that marked a fourth consecutive monthly fall in positive sentiment.

Companies cited concerns about the health of the domestic economy and the impact of rising interest as the two "main factors holding back growth projections".

## Ethical funds' 'worst month'

Continued from page 31

scepticism among some investors about the environmental claims made for them. It was possible that stories about so-called greenwashing were having an impact, Glyn said.

The only other month where investors were net sellers of ESG funds was September last year, when a net £126 million was withdrawn.

The new figures show the strongest net inflows into money market funds since the September mini-budget market upheaval, with a net £419 million injected into the category. Money market funds invest in government bonds with very short maturities and are seen as low-risk. The May net outflow for ESG funds compared with net

inflows in April and March of £583 million and £218 million, respectively.

Investors' appetite for UK-badged funds remains depressed. Investors pulled a net £583 million from the category in May, the 24th successive month in which they have ditched UK funds.

Brexit, political instability and the UK's poor productivity record have all been suggested as reasons, but Glyn said some UK-badged funds had performed strongly recently and some selling was from investors "capitalising on their winnings".

Calastone connects fund managers with financial advisers and wealth managers, processing £250 billion of flows each month, and bases its estimate on this up-to-date data.

### Behind the story

**E**nvironmental, social and governance labelling has done for the investment industry what "healthy option" labelling has done for the food industry (Patrick Hosking writes).

As a marketing tool, it has helped to generate extraordinary sales of funds. Since January 2020, the UK's fund managers have shifted a net £24 billion of ESG-labelled funds. Over the

same period, a net £7 billion has been pulled out of vanilla equity funds — those without the magical "ESG" lettering in their branding.

End investors want to feel good about their choices and the ESG labelling (standing for investment influenced by environmental, social and governance factors) gives them some comfort that their fund managers are weighting portfolios away from companies with the worst records on

everything from carbon emissions and slave labour to obesity and diversity in the boardroom.

The latest Calastone figures suggest that for the third month, however, the pendulum may be inching back a bit. In March and April non-ESG funds outsold ESG peers and in May ESG fund sales went negative, with more investors redeeming old units than buying new ones.

Scepticism about ESG

may be beginning to seep into the public consciousness, according to Laith Khalaf, at AJ Bell. "There's been a bit of backlash," he said.

Companies and funds are routinely accused of exaggerating their claims, especially in areas like emissions.

ESG has now become mainstream. To grow from here, it will need to convince more of the doubters that it is really nudging the world in a better direction.



# David Smith

Don't be fooled by talk of tax cuts – the tax burden is actually going up

**“**A long time ago, in the summer of 2005, I met George Osborne, who had just been appointed shadow chancellor by Michael Howard, at that time the Conservative leader. Apart from the strong sense that it wasn't just policemen who were getting younger — Osborne was only 34 at the time — one thing stuck in the memory. The new shadow chancellor told me that his mission was to teach the Tory party that tax cuts were not something you could whip out when the electoral cycle suited it — usually in the run-up to an election — but they had to be earned through fiscal discipline.

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then, including the financial crisis, Brexit, the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Osborne took over as chancellor in 2010 in the difficult circumstances of an economy laid low by the financial crisis. He reduced some taxes, including corporation tax and income tax, the latter by raising allowances and thresholds by more than inflation. Both have been reversed by his successors. But he put up others, most notably VAT, which went up from 17.5 to 20 per cent in 2011. The tax burden when he was sacked by Theresa May in 2016, at 33.4 per cent of gross domestic product, was similar to that at the start, at 33.2 per cent.

Most of the action was on public spending, which was reduced from 45.7 per cent to 40.2 per cent of GDP and was on a trajectory that would take it down to 39.4 per cent just ahead of the pandemic. Achieving that was, at times, painful. Indeed, the former chancellor is set to appear in front of the Covid public inquiry on the question of whether austerity hampered Britain's response to the pandemic.

Yet the message from all those years ago still has a lot of relevance. Tax cuts

George Osborne hoped to change attitudes in his party as chancellor



have to be earned, not pulled out like rabbits from a magician's hat. The big Thatcher tax cuts of the 1980s, which still have the Tory faithful salivating, came only towards the end of her time in office, mainly from 1987 onwards, after the public finances had been fixed and the country was heading from budget deficit into surplus.

I mention this because tax cuts are rearing their head again and it looks as though the former chancellor's mission to educate the Tory party failed. There were reports at the weekend that Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt are eyeing a 2p cut in income tax or national insurance ahead of the election. A campaign is under way to abolish inheritance tax, or to significantly reduce its impact. An election is approaching and the government wants to demonstrate that its tax-cutting heart is beating loudly.

You might think this must be because the public finances have been fixed, but not a bit of it. Public sector net borrowing in April, the latest figure, was £25.6 billion, the second highest for the month on record. The rolling total for public borrowing — the budget deficit — over the latest 12 months is £149 billion.

Government spending is estimated by the Office for Budget Responsibility to be 46.2 per cent of GDP this year, 2023-24, higher than in 2022-23 (45.7 per cent), or 2021-22 (44.5 per cent). When it settles down, after energy price support and other temporary measures, it is expected to be about four percentage points of GDP above pre-pandemic levels.

That, adjusted for the effects of inflation and taking into account growth in spending, is an increase of about £200 billion.

Meanwhile, the government's target of reducing government debt as a percentage of GDP will not be achieved this side of the election. Official projections show it rising for three more years after this one, before edging down by the narrowest of margins after that. Who knows

who will be in charge by then? It would be easier to land on the Moon than guarantee that public sector debt will fall by 0.2 per cent of GDP in 2027-28.

Of course, there is another factor. Taxes are going up a lot, including income tax and national insurance, because of the freezing of allowances and thresholds until 2027-28 under present plans. The biggest stealth tax increase in history is still going ahead. A 2p cut in income tax, worth £13.7 billion, even if affordable would make only a dent in the planned £29 billion increase in income tax because of the freeze. It would be better, and more logical, to use any spare cash to thaw the freeze on income tax allowances and thresholds, which has the effect of pushing more people into tax and into the higher rates. But it would not be nearly as eye-catching.

A 2p cut in income tax, by the way, would leave the tax burden — taxes as a percentage of GDP — still on course for the highest level since records began in 1948. This is because other taxes are rising, too, including corporation tax. In the meantime, and in line with convention, public finance projections include the government policy of raising the duty on petrol and diesel in line with inflation, a policy that has not been followed for 12 years. And these are not the only holes in the public finances, given the pressure for higher, not lower, public spending in coming years.

We return to a basic proposition. Government finances are not the same as household finances and you cannot simultaneously increase the size of the state, as has happened with mixed results since the pandemic, and hope to reduce the tax burden. A 2p cut in income tax, if offered, is a gift horse the public should look squarely in the mouth.

What we lack, from either party, is a serious debate about what level of government spending we want and whether we are prepared to pay the taxes to pay for it. Talk of pre-election tax cuts only confirms that we are a long way from that. People who claim to be tax-cutters while raising them are trying to trick voters.

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Katie Prescott

Apple's new vision of the future may still be a little bit clouded

**A** few months ago, I played a bit-part in the rollout of that most fundamental of technology infrastructure: fibre broadband. Striding out with a team from OpenReach from a trench in the City of London, I stripped and fused wires and made one connection, under the strict instruction of their engineers. From tiny acorns and all that.

Back at base, I walked around the Barbican and saw where the holes would be drilled and the work done to put the super-fast broadband cables into position. There was no need for trenches here. It was all depicted in virtual reality, allowing OpenReach to show the City of London Corporation what it intended to do to this listed site before it got out the drills. Through a

**'If Apple sells a million headsets in the first year it would mean an uplift of between \$1.5 billion and \$3.5 billion'**

Pico headset, the one owned by ByteDance, the Chinese company, virtual visitors could survey the entire place from the inside.

It was a brilliant example of how virtual reality is already in use by industry to save time, money and — crucially — to prevent any errors. But for most of us it's not a part of our daily life and it is hard to see right now how much it will be.

Over recent years, this kind of immersive experience has been billed as the future of the internet. "The metaverse", with its multiple, often confused definitions, was the most breathlessly hyped technology. Yet it's always felt a bit like something people were trying hard to love, rather than had properly fallen for.

In October 2021, Facebook changed its name to Meta Platforms to represent the company's pivot to focusing on the sector, spending \$10 billion a year developing virtual technology where we would work, shop, learn and play. Despite the clever audio technology and haptics, motion sickness, heavy, expensive headsets and legless avatars have

undermined it somewhat. Perhaps it should not be an "either/or" situation, but as the sun seemed to set slowly on our excitement about the metaverse, it rose on artificial intelligence, which has captured the imagination like nothing else in recent times.

Just look at the investment involved. When it comes to generative AI, roughly \$1.8 billion was put in across 46 start-ups in the first quarter of this year, according to PitchBook data from the United States, and an additional \$10.68 billion of deals were announced in the quarter but have yet to be completed. Metaverse-related technologies raised about \$664 million in the first five months of the year.

So it was striking this week to see virtual reality giving artificial intelligence a run for its money on the front pages, as Apple launched its long-awaited "mixed reality" headset with its signature panache. "Hey!" the Apple advert showed us, "wear these goggles and you can deal with your kids while watching the telly and chatting to your mates! It makes childcare fun and easy!" Personally, I find airpods more discreet.

Reception to the Vision Pro has been mixed. Some loved the concept, comparing it with the iPad in a "you do not know why you need one until you own one" way. Others, not so much. "How about a smartphone, but it f\*\*ks up your hair and make-up?" asked Meredith Whittaker, the boss of Signal, the messaging app.

At £2,849, the goggles may work for commercial customers, but they are beyond the budgets of most people, let alone in an economic downturn and a slowdown in consumer spending. This may not matter immediately. As one analyst remarked, if Apple sells between 500,000 and a million devices in the first year, that would represent a revenue uplift of between \$1.5 billion and \$3.5 billion.

Apple's engagement is certainly a vote of confidence in the sector, but it and others still need to convince us where the headsets will fit comfortably in our day-to-day lives where the use case is not as immediately obvious as within listed buildings.

Katie Prescott is Technology Business Editor of *The Times*

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## Business

# Big firms to shed office space as employees demand flexible work

Tom Howard

About half of the world's biggest companies plan to shed some of their office space over the next few years as they grapple with the era of hybrid working.

A survey of executives at 350 businesses, carried out by Knight Frank, the property agent, showed that while most smaller companies expected to add to

their offices, the very largest — those with 50,000 staff or more worldwide — were split. Among large groups aiming to reduce space by 2026, most were looking to shed between 10 per cent and 20 per cent, Knight Frank said.

Lee Elliott, Knight Frank's global head of occupier research, said that the trend among the biggest businesses was to take less, but better, space. Data from Cushman & Wakefield, another prop-

erty agent, showed that in London more companies moved offices than ever before in 2022, taking less space than before the pandemic, on average.

"[There is] a strong push towards better-quality, amenity-rich, sustainably accredited space that better aligns with prevailing work styles and supports broader corporate ESG [environmental, social and governance] strategies," Elliott said. "In essence, corpo-

rates are responding to a complex mix of physical and functional obsolescence and adjusting their portfolios to better suit a new era of hybrid work."

The "flight to quality" has been talked about by agents for the past couple of years. As well as appealing to companies trying to hit their sustainability goals, greener, more modern offices also go down well with staff.

Bosses are now using their buildings almost as showrooms, designed to help to coax staff back into the office, as well as to lure new workers in what remains a very competitive jobs market. Recruiters have reported that candidates are no longer obsessed solely with money, but that other factors, such as flexibility and a company's commitment to sustainability, are influencing their decisions.

A survey of 3,400 office workers, carried out by Brookfield, the landlord, and Foster + Partners, the architecture practice, found that 93 per cent thought a sustainable office space made them feel happier in their job. Eight in ten felt it was important to them that their employer was run in a "climate-forward way", while a third

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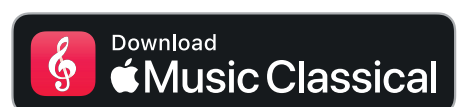
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### Even affordable art is noting the rise in inflation

Inflation is creeping into the rarefied world of modern art, with Affordable Art Fair UK reporting individual sales prices up by a fifth this year to the highest level on record (Simon Freeman writes).

Affordable Art Fair reported sales

#### BUSINESS BRIEFING

Stock markets across the world remain volatile, while British companies are scrambling to cope with the effects of soaring costs.

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# Tobacco chief vows to keep to the plan of his predecessor

**Dominic Walsh**

The new chief executive of British American Tobacco has committed to sticking with the company's strategy, but has noted weaknesses in its key American combustibles market and in the performance of glo, its tobacco heating product.

Tadeu Marroco, who previously was the FTSE 100 group's finance director, was catapulted into the top job after Jack Bowles stepped down with immediate effect last month after four years in the role.

The change at the top of the maker of Lucky Strike and Dunhill cigarettes caught the City by surprise. Bowles, 59, whose strategy has centred on driving sales of BAT's non-combustible portfolio of e-cigarettes and heat-not-burn devices, said it was "time for a change of leadership to take the business to the next level".

In his first outing since taking the reins, Marroco, 57, went straight to one of the questions he is asked most frequently: "Will there be a change in our strategy? No. I am clear that the strategy we created in 2019 is right. I am confident that we can execute it successfully."

He said the group's commitment to actively encourage adult smokers to switch to less-risky products remained intact through its master plan — A Better Tomorrow — although he insisted that this was BAT's purpose rather than its strategy.

In a pre-close trading update ahead of its first-half results, Marroco said: "We have reached a point in our transformation where sharper execution and greater emphasis on fewer, bigger priorities that deliver meaningful returns is required."

He said he was pleased with the group's performance in some key areas, increasing the number of consumers of non-combustible products by a further 900,000 in the first quarter and driving good revenue growth.

The company was on track to deliver its £5 billion revenue ambition in 2025,

with profitability in 2024, regardless of the timing of the transfer of its Russian and Belarussian businesses.

Despite its move ever further into the reduced-risk sector, the BAT boss reiterated: "Consistently driving value from our combustibles brands is critical, as they deliver substantial cash returns and generate value to fund new categories and our transformation." He said the cash from cigarettes was also enabling the group to de-leverage its balance sheet, supporting the return of excess cash to shareholders.

Marroco conceded that the performance of its American combustibles, which have driven the business over the past five years, "has been disappointing". However, BAT was taking action and its volume share was on the up, although value share was down.

Similarly, while glo, its headline tobacco heating product, had experienced "an underwhelming start to 2023", recent trading had been more encouraging.

The Lucky Strike cigarette maker said global tobacco industry volume was now expected to fall by about 3 per cent this year, compared with an earlier forecast of a 2 per cent decline. Altria and Philip Morris, its rivals, also missed quarterly sales expectations as demand for cigarettes fell.

In California, it said the longer-term impact of a flavour ban "remains difficult to assess". Menthol products are still being sold illicitly because of a lack of enforcement, although this has been counterbalanced by a rise in flavoured volume in surrounding states.

Analysts said government moves to regulate alternatives such as vaping devices — the colourful designs and fruity flavours of which appeal to teenagers — along with the threat of illicit sales remained a potential issue.

Full-year guidance was unchanged — targeting 3 per cent to 5 per cent organic revenue growth at a constant currency level and mid-single digit adjusted growth in earnings per share.

Shares in BAT rose 38½p, or 1.5 per cent, to £26.09.

of £8.8 million so far in 2023, a 6 per cent rise on 2022, spent by the 34,000 visitors who have attended its spring exhibitions in London.

The organisation holds three sales each year in the capital, where works typically range in price from £50 to £7,500, to connect first-time art buyers and seasoned collectors with living artists from Britain and around the world.

Founded by Will Ramsay, 54, in 1999 with a mission to "make art inclusive rather than exclusive", it has grown to include 13 cities worldwide, from Brussels to New

Affordable Art Fair aims to connect both first-time art buyers and experienced collectors with artists drawn from Britain and overseas

York to Hong Kong, and it is expanding further to host its first event in Shanghai this month, followed by fairs in Austin, Texas, and Berlin next year.

Hugo Barclay, fair director, said: "The model continues to see growth in the accessible end of the art market, which all goes to supporting thousands of living artists and the independent

galleries who exhibit with us. It's encouraging to see visitors' spending on art growing at our fairs, while noting that 40 per cent of works sold remain under £500, ensuring that the Affordable Art Fair remains truly affordable."

Worldwide art and antiques sales increased by 3 per cent year-on-year to an estimated £54.8 billion in 2022, according to the latest *Global Art Market Report*, with Britain overtaking China to make up 18 per cent of global sales to recover its second place spot behind the United States.

## Chemring revels in a flare for growth

**Robert Lea** Industrial Editor

War and rearmament in Europe and the threat of conflict in the wider world have led to record orders at Chemring.

The company, one of the last defence groups listed on the London Stock Exchange, indicated in its results for the six months to end of April that the orders should begin to flow through to profits in the second half of the year.

Chemring shares soared by 9.1 per cent, or 24½p, to 293p, valuing it at more than £800 million. They had been drifting down since a downbeat update in March highlighting delays in customer procurements — especially from the United States — labour shortages and energy and wage inflation.

The company is a maker and supplier of components for a range of military uses, from pyrotechnics, countermeasures or decoys for incoming missile attacks, as well as the explosives — or energetics — used in missiles and ammunition, biochemical weapons detection and cyberdefence. It has its headquarters in Romsey, Hampshire, and employs 2,500 people in Britain,



**Chemring makes flares and explosives**

America, Australia and Norway. It has operations at Poole in Dorset, Salisbury in Wiltshire and on the Ayrshire coast on the Firth of Clyde.

Chemring, which reported a 4 per cent fall in first-half revenue to £212 million and underlying operating profits down 21 per cent at £26.6 million, said it expected full-year underlying profits of £67 million on revenues of £468 million. This compares with full-year underlying profits of £64 million and revenue of £442.8 million in

2022. What the market liked was the record first-half order intake, taking the backlog to a ten-year high of £750 million, and an increased interim dividend, up by a fifth from 1.9p a share to 2.3p.

Orders at its sensors and digital science business were up by 35 per cent, although they were held back by its unit providing mine detectors mounted on Husky armoured cars. Orders for countermeasures and energetics rose by 113 per cent, boosted by work at its Scottish plant on the next generation of shoulder-held, anti-tank missile launchers.

Margins were depressed by working capital spending, which has lifted net debt from £18.5 million to £25 million, and the previously flagged inflationary impacts.

Jefferies, the broker, said it was heartened that first-half profits were better than expected and revenue visibility for the second half was ahead of this time last year. It is a buyer of stock with a target price of 360p. Investec, another broker, said the shares remained undervalued; it has a target of 430p.

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## Economic concerns weigh heavily on merger activity

**Helen Cahill**

City dealmakers suffered a drop in merger activity in the first three months of the year as doubts about the economy lingered.

The value of deals fell to £17.4 billion in the first quarter from £19.8 billion in the previous three months, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The value of domestic deals, whereby British companies acquired other UK-based groups, fell by £2.1 billion in the quarter to £1.8 billion and the value of outward deals, where companies bought targets overseas, dropped by £7.2 billion.

However, foreign companies stepped up efforts to acquire UK assets, with the value of inward mergers and acquisitions increasing by £6.9 billion, including the completion of the £4 billion acquisition of Homeserve, the home repairs group, by Brookfield, the Canadian asset manager.

The total value of deals involving

British companies more than halved to \$89 billion in the first five months of the year, according to separate data released recently by the London Stock Exchange Group. The number of deals announced dropped by 29 per cent.

The City had hoped for an increase in deals after investment firms launched take-private approaches for listed companies in April. But the value of deals dropped from \$8.8 billion to \$480 million month-on-month in May.

Rob Baxter, head of corporate finance at KPMG, said: "Economic and geopolitical headwinds, rising interest rates, high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis have prompted more caution."

● The European technology industry is heading into the second half of a tough year well placed to withstand challenging economic conditions, according to Atomico, a venture capital firm. European technology investment volumes are set to reach \$51 billion this year, compared with \$106 billion in 2021 and \$83 billion last year, it said.



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## Corporate & Commercial Banking





# Asos suppliers cut ties over insurance and profits fears

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

Suppliers to Asos have started to sever ties with the troubled retailer after credit insurers withdrew cover amid concerns over its falling profits.

Asos — founded in 2000 under the name As Seen On Screen, selling imitations of clothes worn by television and film celebrities — was regarded as a trailblazer for fast-fashion thanks to its focus on twentysomething, smart-phone-savvy shoppers and its swift service, which helped it to steam ahead of bricks-and-mortar rivals.

However, the online fashion pioneer, valued at more than £7 billion just over two years ago, was booted out of the FTSE 250 index last week after a sharp decline in its fortunes. Like Boohoo, its rival, it has been hit by supply chain issues, high numbers of product returns, increased competition, the rising cost of living and the reopening of high street shops since pandemic lockdowns were lifted. Last month, it unveiled a first-half loss of £290.9 million on revenues of £1.8 billion.

Leading credit insurers have withdrawn or reduced cover for the retailer's suppliers amid concerns over its tumbling profits, a move that could further squeeze its cashflow. Allianz Trade, formerly Euler Hermes, withdrew cover entirely for Asos suppliers last month, citing adverse economic conditions and the retailer's finances. Atradius, another leading insurer, also has reduced cover.

Asos's suppliers began cutting their ties with the retailer after cover was withdrawn. "Lots of suppliers aren't delivering as insurance has been lost," one supplier said on condition of anonymity.

Credit insurance is a vital part of the retail supply chain, protecting suppliers against the risk of customers going bust between accepting an order and receiving payment. When cover is not avail-

● **Frasers Group, the retail empire majority-owned by Mike Ashley, has raised its stake in Asos for the second time in less than a month (Isabella Fish writes).**

Already Asos's third largest shareholder, Frasers raised its holding to 8.8 per cent from 7.4 per cent. The stake has grown from about 5 per cent in October.

The former Sports Direct is known for picking up stakes in fellow retailers. The owner of brands such as Flannels and House of Fraser holds shares in Hugo Boss, the German fashion house, and Mulberry, the luxury handbag maker.

It was reported over the weekend that Asos, the troubled online fashion retailer, had received a £1 billion approach from Trendyol, a Turkish company. A deal would have valued Asos at between £10 and £12 a share. Shares in Frasers rose 1½p, or 0.2 per cent, to 696p.

able, suppliers often demand payment upfront, damaging a retailer's cashflow.

Another supplier said he had stopped supplying Asos temporarily throughout 2023 "and we won't supply them again until they get credit insurance backing. Credit insurance is so important these days and makes doing business not as risky. The only way [Asos] going to get people to supply to them again is to pay earlier — the drawback being that it eats into cash."

A third source, who supplies Topshop and Topman products to Asos after it bought the brands out of the collapse of Arcadia in 2021, said he had been asked to supply Asos own-label product as well, "which I obviously won't do without credit insurance. Stock liabilities must be huge."

A spokeswoman for Asos said: "While trade credit insurance cover has



Asos was once a trailblazer with its fashion for twentysomething shoppers but profits dipped as it suffered from supply chain issues and high product returns

been tightening across the retail industry, we have seen no impact on our trading."

The cuts to insurance cover add to the problems piling up for José Antonio Ramos Calamonte, 51, the group's chief executive. Last month, Asos was forced to shore up its finances by raising £75 million from investors via a share placing. It also entered into £275 million of new debt facilities at an average interest rate of 11 per cent. The fund-raising was supported by Anders Holch Povlsen, 50, the Danish billionaire who

is the largest shareholder with a 26 per cent stake through Bestseller, his clothing company.

News that Asos had received a £1 billion takeover approach drove a sharp revival in the retailer's share price on Monday. The business had been approached in December by Trendyol, a Turkish online retailer backed by Alibaba, the Chinese ecommerce and technology group. The Sunday Times reported. However, Asos shares closed down by 19½p, or 5.1 per cent, at 356p yesterday.

## N Brown left reeling as it falls into red

Isabella Fish

The online fashion group behind the Simply Be, JD Williams and Jacamo brands has warned of a "challenging online market" after falling into the red.

N Brown Group unveiled a statutory loss before tax of £71.1 million for the 53 weeks to March 4, compared with a profit of £19.2 million the year before.

Revenue at the retail group, which counts Davina McCall, Amanda Holden and Freddie Flintoff, the celebrities, as brand ambassadors, fell by 5.3 per cent to £677.5 million in the period as "challenging online market conditions" affected its cost base.

Steve Johnson, its chief executive, said N Brown expected "weaker consumer confidence to continue weighing on our performance before we see a return to growth and are therefore keeping a tight control of costs". Johnson, 51, also warned that the company was braced for further increases in the ratio of adjusted operating costs to group revenue because of inflationary pressures, particularly in administration and payroll costs.

Investors were not convinced by Johnson's reassurance that the company "remained adaptable" and "confident in [its] strategy", with its shares tumbling by almost 10 per cent, or 2¼p, to 24¼p. The shares have fallen by more than a fifth in the past year as N Brown battles to attract online shoppers in a post-pandemic world.

The Manchester-based retailer, founded in 1859, was one of the first to post products directly to customers. It has focused more recently on digital clothing and footwear retail with its own stable of brands, as well as selling third-party labels such as Nobody's Child.

Online-only retailers such as Asos, Boohoo and N Brown, all of which benefited from shop closures amid Covid lockdowns, have struggled to keep up their trading momentum post-pandemic as people revert back to high street shopping.

In January N Brown revealed it would pay £49.5 million to settle a claim from Allianz Insurance. The dispute related to "significant amounts of redress" paid to customers by JD Williams and the insurer "in respect of certain historic insurance products", including payment protection insurance.

## M&S boss paid £2.2m for four-day week

Isabella Fish

The female co-chief executive of Marks & Spencer was paid £2.22 million for a four-day week in her first year in the role, effectively earning £250,000 more than her counterpart Stuart Machin.

Katie Bickerstaffe received £673,000 pay and a £1.55 million performance-related bonus in the year to April 1, worth £2.78 million on a pro-rata basis.

Machin, 52, who works a five-day week, received £2.53 million, made up of £749,000 in fixed pay and £1.78 million in variable pay.

Between them, the two co-heads — brought in to replace Steve Rowe, who stepped down in June last year after six years in charge — were paid almost £5 million.

Bickerstaffe, 56, is the retailer's first female leader in its 139-year history. A single



mother who joined the board in 2018 before taking an executive role in 2020, she has worked a four-day week since leading Dixons Carphone in the UK and Ireland.

"Katie has worked flexibly for much of her executive career and we were pleased to be able to continue that at M&S, where we offer flexible working options for all colleagues," a spokesman said. "Stuart is completely happy with the salary difference and is focused on leading the business."

The board's decision to appoint effectively a triumvirate at the top of the retailer was branded "a fudge" by analysts, although

**Katie Bickerstaffe, a single mother, is used to flexible working**

Archie Norman, the chairman, has said that they "fly in formation" and has highlighted that the business, which runs food, clothing and home divisions, required an unconventional approach to its leadership.

● Simon Roberts, who has been chief executive of Sainsbury's since 2020, received a £3.5 million pay increase for the year to March 4, from more than £1.4 million to £4.9 million.

The pay deal, revealed in the supermarket chain's latest annual report, includes almost £4 million in bonuses, despite the group's lower profits for the year. His total pay package is about 229 times that of the average Sainsbury's worker, who earns a typical £21,635, according to the annual report.

Roberts, 52, received a base salary of £899,000, as well as annual benefits of £17,000 and £67,000 worth of pensions payments. He also received an annual bonus of £1.7 million and long-term incentives worth £2.3 million.

## Pub tenants increasingly bitter with their landlords

James Hurley

Stonegate has the least satisfied tenants of Britain's six biggest pub companies, the industry regulator has found.

The Pubs Code Adjudicator said its annual survey had found that half of the "tied" tenants of the private equity-owned Stonegate, the largest pubs company in the UK, were not satisfied with how their landlord was treating them. Marston's, the listed brewer and pub owner, had the highest overall satisfaction rates, with 85 per cent of tenants saying they were happy.

Across the six groups regulated by the government code, one in five tenants said they were "actively unsatisfied" with how they were treated by their landlord, with three in five saying they were happy with the relationship.

The Pubs Code was introduced in

2016 to level the playing field between breweries and giant pub owners, or pubcos, and to give a fairer deal to tenants, including by allowing them to break the "tie" with their landlords. It requires fair and lawful dealing by pubcos towards tied tenants and that such publicans should be no worse off than if they were free of a tie.

Since the legislation was introduced, the number of pubs covered by the rules has declined from about 12,500 to about 8,500 after acquisitions, industry restructuring and changing operator models.

Fiona Dickie, the Pubs Code Adjudicator, said she was pleased that satisfaction levels had remained steady from last year, but she said there was "some way to go" to improve relationships, "with some pub companies having more work to do than others".



Business

The Times unit trust information service

|                                                                                   | Sell    | Buy | +/-    | Yld % |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|--------|-------|
| <b>ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS</b><br>Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573 |         |     |        |       |
| Gilt Yield A i@                                                                   | 206.01  | ... | +0.27  | 1.05  |
| Strategic Bond Fund i@                                                            | 146.35  | ... | +0.50  | 4.71  |
| UK Corp Bond C i@                                                                 | 104.79  | ... | -0.78  | ...   |
| UK Emty Inc A i@                                                                  | 631.03  | ... | -2.78  | 3.28  |
| UK Gwrth A i@                                                                     | 7956.72 | ... | -69.56 | 2.36  |
| UK Index A Inc i@                                                                 | 1423.81 | ... | -5.83  | 3.01  |
| UK Mid Cap A i@                                                                   | 4654.61 | ... | -11.35 | 0.07  |

|                                                                              |         |     |        |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|--------|------|
| <b>ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD</b><br>0800 092 2051<br><b>Authorised Inv Funds</b> |         |     |        |      |
| Capital R Acc i@                                                             | 2142.50 | ... | -24.98 | ...  |
| Euro Opps R Acc i@                                                           | 91.26   | ... | -0.48  | 1.29 |
| Euro Opps R Inc i@                                                           | 85.36   | ... | -0.46  | 1.30 |
| European Growth R Acc i@                                                     | 9397.16 | ... | -4.79  | ...  |
| Global Energy R Acc i@                                                       | 39.04   | ... | -0.07  | 1.21 |
| Global Growth R Acc i@                                                       | 336.19  | ... | -1.55  | ...  |
| Global Income R Acc i@                                                       | 151.69  | ... | -1.21  | 4.45 |
| Global Income R Inc i@                                                       | 95.36   | ... | -0.76  | 4.67 |
| Global Select R Acc i@                                                       | 152.61  | ... | -0.79  | ...  |
| High Income R Acc i@                                                         | 61.99   | ... | -0.02  | 6.32 |
| Income R Acc i@                                                              | 510.37  | ... | -3.66  | 3.96 |
| Income R Inc i@                                                              | 219.10  | ... | -1.58  | 4.08 |
| Monthly Dist R Inc i@                                                        | 62.24   | ... | -0.15  | 5.07 |
| Strategic Assets R Acc i@                                                    | 90.33   | ... | -0.60  | ...  |
| Strategic Bond R M Acc i@                                                    | 494.73  | ... | +0.19  | 3.73 |
| Strategic Bond R M Inc i@                                                    | 49.27   | ... | +0.10  | 3.82 |
| Strategic Bond R Q Acc i@                                                    | 94.56   | ... | +0.19  | 3.80 |
| Strategic Bond R Q Inc i@                                                    | 49.05   | ... | +0.09  | 3.87 |
| UK Growth R Acc i@                                                           | 733.31  | ... | -9.35  | ...  |
| UK Smaller Cos R Acc i@                                                      | 1805.27 | ... | -10.34 | ...  |
| UK Special Sits R Acc i@                                                     | 698.89  | ... | -8.15  | ...  |

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|------|
| <b>AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD</b><br>Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511 |         |        |        |      |
| Equity Inc i@                                                                            | 572.40  | ...    | -2.70  | 4.43 |
| Gilt Acc i@                                                                              | 201.30  | 211.80 | +0.10  | 1.08 |
| Gilt Inc i@                                                                              | 74.35   | 78.24  | -0.39  | 1.09 |
| Health Acc i@                                                                            | 3031.00 | ...    | +11.00 | ...  |
| Jap Smrl Co Acc i@                                                                       | 62.56   | 66.09  | -0.19  | 3.30 |
| Managed Inc i@                                                                           | 138.30  | ...    | -4.20  | ...  |
| Monthly Inc Inc i@                                                                       | 206.30  | ...    | -1.40  | ...  |
| UK Growth Inc i@                                                                         | 216.80  | ...    | -1.40  | 0.95 |
| UK Select Opps Inc i@                                                                    | 1873.00 | ...    | -7.00  | ...  |
| UK SmI Cos Inc i@                                                                        | 259.60  | ...    | +0.40  | ...  |

|                                                                                |         |     |        |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|--------|------|
| <b>AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD</b><br>Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808<br><b>AXA Trusts</b> |         |     |        |      |
| Gen Acc i@                                                                     | 2101.00 | ... | +6.00  | 2.64 |
| Gen Inc i@                                                                     | 1079.00 | ... | -2.00  | 2.70 |
| <b>UK/Global Investment Companies</b>                                          |         |     |        |      |
| Euro Acc A i@                                                                  | 234.70  | ... | ...    | 1.18 |
| Extra Inc Inc B i@                                                             | 86.74   | ... | +0.24  | 1.16 |
| Global Gwrth Acc i@                                                            | 288.10  | ... | +4.10  | 0.52 |
| Japan Acc A i@                                                                 | 162.30  | ... | +2.20  | 1.51 |
| Pac Gwrth Acc A i@                                                             | 479.80  | ... | -17.60 | ...  |

|                                                |        |     |       |      |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| <b>CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD</b><br>08457 46 46 46 |        |     |       |      |
| European Gwrth i@                              | 211.80 | ... | -1.40 | ...  |
| Sus Leaders i@                                 | 800.30 | ... | -3.30 | ...  |
| UK Growth i@                                   | 627.60 | ... | -5.90 | ...  |
| UK Income i@                                   | 201.60 | ... | -1.60 | 5.32 |

|                                                   |       |     |       |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| <b>CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD</b><br>0870 606 6402 |       |     |       |     |
| Beacon Inv i@                                     | 84.88 | ... | +0.35 | ... |

|                               |         |     |        |      |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----|--------|------|
| <b>Dealing: 020 7426 6232</b> |         |     |        |      |
| Winchester i                  | 3565.10 | ... | -25.51 | 1.01 |

|                                               |         |     |       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|-----|-------|------|
| <b>EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD</b><br>0800 358 3010 |         |     |       |      |
| Resp & Sust Sterling Bond i@                  | 83.09   | ... | +0.13 | 4.22 |
| Resp & Sust Eurp Eq i@                        | 322.70  | ... | -4.30 | 1.96 |
| Resp & Sust Gbl Eq i@                         | 342.70  | ... | -1.80 | 0.57 |
| Resp & Sust Mgd Income i@                     | 121.60  | ... | -0.70 | 4.96 |
| Resp & Sust UK Eq i@                          | 223.30  | ... | -1.30 | ...  |
| Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps i@                 | 1276.80 | ... | -1.30 | ...  |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>F &amp; C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICs)</b><br>Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083<br><b>Share Class 1 - Retail</b> |         |       |       |      |
| Corporate Bd i@                                                                                                             | 49.99   | ...   | -0.31 | ...  |
| Emerging Mkts i@                                                                                                            | 116.50  | ...   | -0.50 | ...  |
| Euro Gwrth & Inc 1 i@                                                                                                       | 1268.00 | ...   | -7.00 | ...  |
| Extra Income i@                                                                                                             | 43.49   | ...   | +0.09 | 1.85 |
| FTSE All-Str Track i@                                                                                                       | 422.30  | ...   | -4.00 | 3.06 |
| Global Gwrth SC1 i@                                                                                                         | 310.70  | ...   | -0.80 | ...  |
| High Inc Trst i@                                                                                                            | 11.03   | 11.63 | +0.01 | 5.58 |
| Max Inc Bond i@                                                                                                             | 42.94   | ...   | +0.07 | 3.69 |
| Multi Man Caut i@                                                                                                           | 70.41   | ...   | ...   | 3.18 |
| Multi Man Distr i@                                                                                                          | 60.44   | ...   | ...   | 3.37 |
| North Amer i@                                                                                                               | 853.20  | ...   | -2.30 | ...  |
| Pacific Gwrth i@                                                                                                            | 474.00  | ...   | -2.60 | 0.04 |
| Strategic Bd i@                                                                                                             | 193.60  | ...   | +0.40 | 1.43 |
| UK Equity i@                                                                                                                | 3446.00 | ...   | +2.00 | 1.27 |
| UK Gwrth & Inc Acc 1 i@                                                                                                     | 658.50  | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| UK Gwrth & Inc Dist i@                                                                                                      | 234.70  | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| UK Smaller Cos i@                                                                                                           | 1018.00 | ...   | -8.00 | ...  |

|                                                                                   |         |        |        |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|------|
| <b>FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL</b><br>Private Cnts 0800 414161 Broker Digs 0800 414181 |         |        |        |      |
| Amer Spec Sits i@                                                                 | 2177.00 | ...    | -10.00 | ...  |
| American i@                                                                       | 5498.00 | ...    | -22.00 | ...  |
| Euro Opps i@                                                                      | 595.10  | ...    | -1.80  | ...  |
| European i@                                                                       | 3534.00 | ...    | -10.00 | ...  |
| Extra Income i@                                                                   | 21.78   | ...    | -0.09  | 5.86 |
| Global Spec Sits i@                                                               | 5628.00 | ...    | -25.00 | ...  |
| Global Focus i@                                                                   | 2980.00 | ...    | -5.00  | ...  |
| International i@                                                                  | 149.50  | ...    | +0.20  | 0.08 |
| Japan i@                                                                          | 584.70  | ...    | +0.70  | 0.77 |
| Moneyblr Bal i@                                                                   | 42.47   | ...    | -0.18  | 0.41 |
| Moneyblr Gbl i@                                                                   | 327.60  | 327.60 | -0.10  | 0.21 |
| Moneyblr Gwrth i@                                                                 | 76.12   | ...    | -0.95  | 2.97 |
| Moneyblr Inc i@                                                                   | 28.33   | ...    | +0.05  | 4.82 |
| Moneyblr UK Ind i@                                                                | 129.32  | ...    | -1.20  | 3.24 |
| Special Sits i@                                                                   | 4469.00 | ...    | -43.00 | ...  |
| Wealthbuilder                                                                     | 69.75   | 72.18  | +0.53  | ...  |

|                                                                                                                 | Sell   | Buy | +/-   | Yld % |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|-------|-------|
| <b>HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD</b><br>01296 386 386<br><b>Authorised Inv Funds</b><br><b>Share Class C</b> |        |     |       |       |
| Corporate Bond i@                                                                                               | 31.66  | ... | +0.04 | 2.49  |
| Ethical i@                                                                                                      | 114.90 | ... | ...   | 0.01  |
| European i@                                                                                                     | 112.90 | ... | -0.70 | ...   |
| Far Eastern i@                                                                                                  | 113.30 | ... | -0.30 | 3.41  |
| Fund of Inv Trst i@                                                                                             | 136.40 | ... | -0.90 | 0.43  |
| Intl Gwrth i@                                                                                                   | 128.60 | ... | -0.50 | 1.44  |
| Japanese i@                                                                                                     | 75.23  | ... | +1.05 | 1.46  |
| North Amer i@                                                                                                   | 154.80 | ... | -0.60 | 0.37  |
| Smaller Cos i@                                                                                                  | 106.00 | ... | +1.20 | ...   |
| Special Sits i@                                                                                                 | 50.39  | ... | -0.27 | 1.40  |
| UK Equity Inc i@                                                                                                | 90.85  | ... | -0.92 | 3.85  |
| UK FTSE 100 IT i@                                                                                               | 70.52  | ... | -0.70 | ...   |
| UK FTSE All-S IT i@                                                                                             | 79.40  | ... | -0.77 | 2.50  |
| UK Growth i@                                                                                                    | 82.09  | ... | -0.84 | 2.73  |

|                                                                                                                                                  |         |     |       |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|-------|------|
| <b>HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD</b><br>Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6<br><b>HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)</b> |         |     |       |      |
| Amer Ind Acc i@                                                                                                                                  | 953.63  | ... | -4.40 | 1.30 |
| Amer Ind Acc i@                                                                                                                                  | 755.80  | ... | -3.48 | ...  |
| Euro Ind Acc i@                                                                                                                                  | 1215.17 | ... | -8.24 | ...  |
| Euro Ind Inc i@                                                                                                                                  | 756.30  | ... | -5.13 | ...  |
| FTSE 100 Ind Acc i@                                                                                                                              | 278.10  | ... | -2.82 | 3.32 |
| FTSE 100 Ind Inc i@                                                                                                                              | 124.19  | ... | -1.26 | 3.41 |
| FTSE 250 Ind Acc i@                                                                                                                              | 288.33  | ... | -2.54 | 3.62 |
| FTSE 250 Ind Inc i@                                                                                                                              | 171.90  | ... | -1.52 | 3.07 |
| FTSE All-S Acc i@                                                                                                                                | 707.90  | ... | -6.59 | ...  |
| FTSE All-S Inc i@                                                                                                                                | 351.73  | ... | -3.27 | ...  |
| Jap Ind Acc i@                                                                                                                                   | 151.61  | ... | +1.23 | ...  |
| Jap Ind Inc i@                                                                                                                                   | 115.90  | ... | +0.94 | ...  |
| Pac Ind Acc i@                                                                                                                                   | 508.73  | ... | -0.36 | 3.44 |
| Pac Ind Inc i@                                                                                                                                   | 309.01  | ... | -0.22 | 3.56 |

|                                                          |        |     |       |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| <b>HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class</b> |        |     |       |      |
| Balanced Acc i@                                          | 243.40 | ... | -0.64 | 0.93 |
| Balanced Inc i@                                          | 151.95 | ... | -0.14 | ...  |
| Corp Bd Acc i@                                           | 261.07 | ... | +0.49 | 5.02 |
| Corp Bd Inc i@                                           | 100.38 | ... | +0.19 | 3.43 |
| Gilt & Fd Int Acc i@                                     | 497.78 | ... | +1.62 | ...  |
| Gilt & Fd Int Inc i@                                     | 74.17  | ... | +0.24 | ...  |
| Income Acc i@                                            | 708.84 | ... | -8.65 | 4.25 |
| Income Inc i@                                            | 290.83 | ... | -3.55 | 4.39 |
| Monthly Inc Acc i@                                       | 313.41 | ... | +0.77 | 3.21 |
| Monthly Inc Inc i@                                       | 126.30 | ... | -0.88 | 4.06 |
| UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc i@                               | 144.97 | ... | -1.77 | 4.16 |
| UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc i@                               | 663.99 | ... | -0.78 | 4.29 |
| UK Grth & Inc Acc i@                                     | 144.97 | ... | -1.77 | 4.16 |
| UK Gth & Inc Inc i@                                      | 63.99  | ... | -0.78 | 4.29 |

|                                                |        |     |       |      |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| <b>HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)</b> |        |     |       |      |
| American Index Retail Acc i@                   | 953.63 | ... | -4.40 | 1.30 |
| American Index Retail Inc i@                   | 755.80 | ... | -3.48 | ...  |
| Asian Gth Acc i@                               | 147.77 | ... | -0.07 | ...  |
| Asian Gth Inc i@                               | 130.99 | ... | -0.06 | ...  |
| Chinese Eq Acc i@                              | 513.81 | ... | +0.27 | 0.40 |
| Chinese Eq Inc i@                              | 434.76 | ... | +0.22 | 0.34 |
| Euro Gth Acc i@                                | 973.97 | ... | +0.45 | 0.41 |
| Euro Gth Inc i@                                | 817.05 | ... | +3.39 | 0.44 |

|                                               |        |        |       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|
| <b>IGNIS ASSET MGMT</b><br>Dlg: 0141 222 8282 |        |        |       |      |
| American Gth Inc i@                           | 322.55 | 340.42 | -3.34 | ...  |
| Balanced Growth i@                            | 262.17 | 276.69 | -0.93 | 1.52 |
| Balanced Growth Acc i@                        | 393.13 | 414.92 | -1.40 | 1.49 |
| Corporate Bond i@                             | 99.69  | ...    | -0.89 | 4.77 |
| European Growth i@                            | 403.88 | 426.26 | -3.57 | 1.28 |
| European Growth Acc i@                        | 475.71 | 502.07 | -4.21 | 2.24 |
| Glob Gwrth i@                                 | 331.53 | 349.90 | -3.09 | ...  |
| Higher Yield i@                               | 83.98  | 88.64  | -0.29 | ...  |
| Higher Yield Acc i@                           | 275.04 | 290.28 | -0.92 | ...  |
| Japan i@                                      | 49.06  | 51.78  | -0.03 | 0.94 |
| Managed i@                                    | 130.89 | 138.15 | -0.06 | ...  |
| Managed Trust i@                              | 71.96  | 76.96  | +0.17 | ...  |
| Mngd Pfolio Inc i@                            | 95.54  | 100.84 | -0.11 | 0.58 |
| Pacific Grth i@                               | 498.71 | 526.34 | -2.81 | 1.34 |
| Smaller Comp i@                               | 756.24 | 798.14 | +1.64 | ...  |
| Smaller Cos i@                                | 628.94 | 663.79 | +1.36 | ...  |

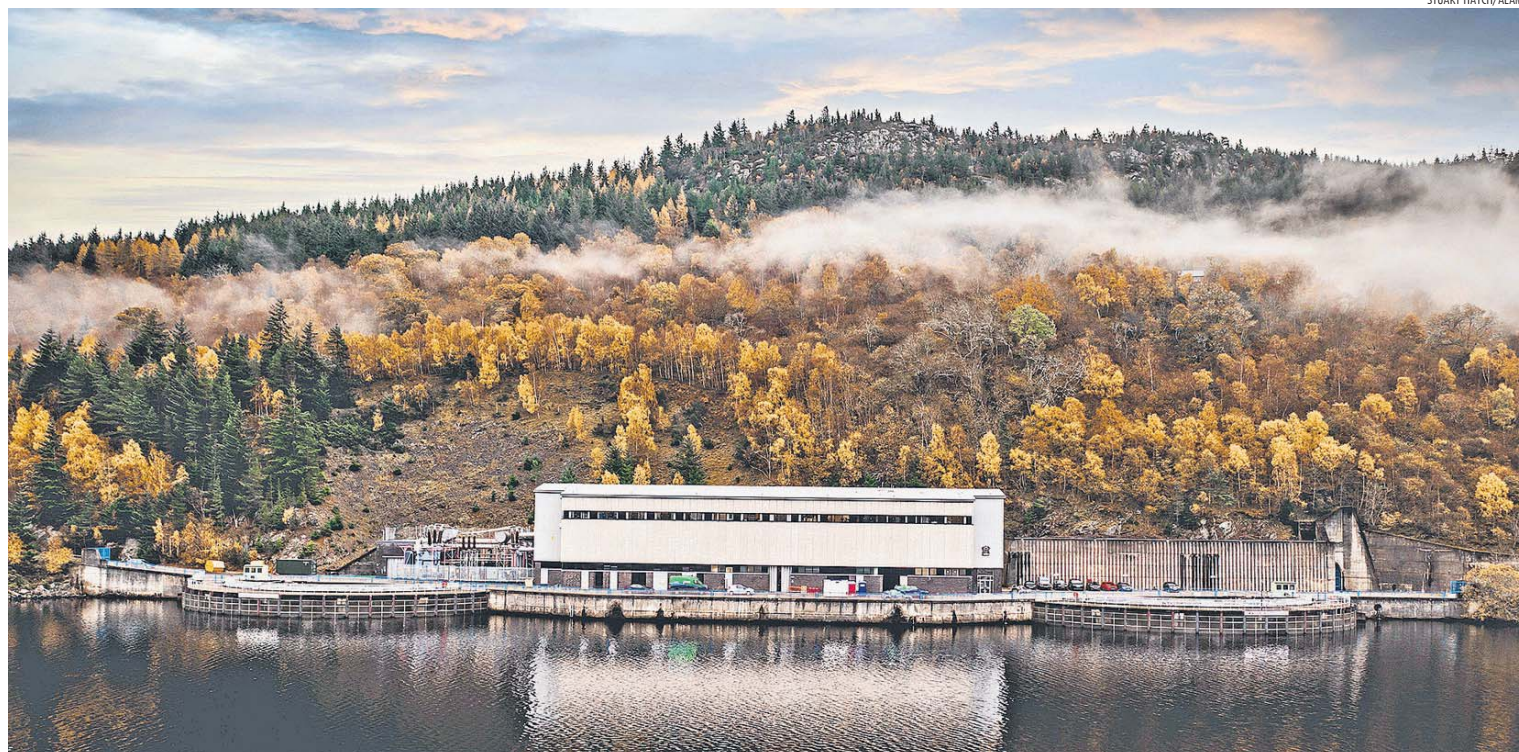
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| <b>INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD</b><br>Client Servs: 0207 163 4000<br><b>Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds</b> |       |     |       |     |
| Well Bldr Bal Acc i@                                                                                                         | 96.05 | ... | -0.32 | ... |
| Well Bldr Gwrth Acc i@                                                                                                       | 93.79 | ... | -0.36 | ... |

|                                                                                                                                  |         |     |        |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|--------|------|
| <b>INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD</b><br>Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677<br>Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121<br><b>INVESCO Funds</b> |         |     |        |      |
| UK Str Inc N/Trl i@                                                                                                              | 323.57  | ... | -0.12  | ...  |
| <b>INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds</b>                                                                                                   |         |     |        |      |
| Childrens Acc i@                                                                                                                 | 471.11  | ... | -2.36  | ...  |
| Corp Bond Acc i@                                                                                                                 | 195.96  | ... | +0.47  | 1.60 |
| High Income i@                                                                                                                   | 314.86  | ... | -2.97  | ...  |
| Income & Grth Inc i@                                                                                                             | 421.13  | ... | -1.50  | 3.10 |
| Income Inc i@                                                                                                                    | 1233.68 | ... | -12.75 | ...  |
| Money Acc i@                                                                                                                     | 92.26   | ... | +0.03  | ...  |
| Monthly Inc Plus Inc i@                                                                                                          | 90.41   | ... | +0.20  | 6.27 |
| UK Aggressive Inc i@                                                                                                             | 154.28  | ... | -0.24  | ...  |
| UK Growth Acc i@                                                                                                                 | 892.03  | ... | -9.51  | 1.69 |
| UK SmI Cos Eqty Acc i@                                                                                                           | 1328.93 | ... | -6.12  | ...  |
| UK SmI Cos Gwrth i@                                                                                                              | 82.54   | ... | +0.04  | ...  |

|                                                                                                                 |          |     |        |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|--------|------|
| <b>INVESTEC FUND MGRS</b><br>Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900<br><b>OEIC Series i,ii,iii, &amp; iv</b> |          |     |        |      |
| American A Acc i@                                                                                               | 710.43   | ... | -0.34  | ...  |
| Asia ex Japan A Acc i@                                                                                          | 731.00   | ... | -5.08  | ...  |
| Capital Accumulator A Acc i@                                                                                    | 8231.48  | ... | -3.81  | ...  |
| Cautious Managed A Acc i@                                                                                       | 8373.19  | ... | -0.03  | 1.92 |
| Cautious Managed A Acc i@                                                                                       | 8233.91  | ... | -0.02  | 1.94 |
| Diversified Growth A Acc i@                                                                                     | 8127.28  | ... | -0.17  | 0.62 |
| Diversified Growth A Acc i@                                                                                     | 8134.13  | ... | -0.18  | ...  |
| Diversified Income A Acc i@                                                                                     | 8321.43  | ... | +0.44  | 2.70 |
| Diversified Income A Acc i@                                                                                     | 867.54   | ... | +0.09  | 4.12 |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc i@                                                                             | 8113.59  | ... | +0.22  | 4.86 |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc i@                                                                             | 8125.52  | ... | +0.20  | ...  |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc i@                                                                             | 863.31   | ... | +0.13  | 6.73 |
| Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc i@                                                                                   | 8146.38  | ... | -0.31  | 0.97 |
| Emerg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc i@                                                                             | 8184.10  | ... | +0.48  | ...  |
| Emerg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc i@                                                                             | 870.10   | ... | +0.18  | ...  |
| Emerg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross A Acc i@                                                                       | 8220.49  | ... | -0.05  | ...  |
| Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc i@                                                                             | 8134.24  | ... | -1.25  | ...  |
| Global Bond A Acc i@                                                                                            | 139.30   | ... | +4.03  | ...  |
| Global Bond A Inc i@                                                                                            | 109.33   | ... | +3.00  | ...  |
| Global Bond Tr Gross Inc i@                                                                                     | 81167.00 | ... | +29.78 | ...  |
| Global Dynamic A Acc i@                                                                                         | 193.61   | ... | +1.95  | 0.47 |
| Global Energy A Acc i@                                                                                          | 170.97   | ... | -1.14  | ...  |
| Global Equity A Acc i@                                                                                          | 237.05   | ... | -0.51  | 0.13 |
| Global Franchise A Acc i@                                                                                       | 8311.68  | ... | -0.60  | ...  |
| Global Free Enterprise A Acc i@                                                                                 | 81276.02 | ... | -5.02  | 0.37 |
| Global Gold A Acc i@                                                                                            | 196.43   | ... | -1.14  | 0.88 |

|                                         | Sell | Buy | +/-    | Yld % |
|-----------------------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|
| Global Special Situations A Acc i@20.85 | ...  | ... | -2.91  | ...   |
| Global Special Situations A Inc i@27.62 | ...  | ... | -2.24  | ...   |
| Managed Growth A Acc i@276.33           | ...  | ... | +0.07  | ...   |
| Monthly High Income A Acc i@243.45      | ...  | ... | +0.43  | 3.54  |
| Monthly High Income A Acc i@63.37       | ...  | ... | +0.01  | 5.01  |
| Multi-Asset Protector A Acc i@167.05    | ...  | ... | -0.01  | ...   |
| Strategic Bond A Acc i@ 248.54          | ...  | ... | +0.19  | ...   |
| Strategic Bond A Inc i@ 119.47          | ...  | ... | +0.09  | ...   |
| Target Return A Acc i@ 102.03           | ...  | ... | +0.04  | 0.82  |
| Target Return A Inc i@ 87.63            | ...  | ... | +0.01  | 8.77  |
| UK Alpha A Acc i@ 266.41                | ...  | ... | -22.50 | ...   |
| UK Blue Chip A Acc i@ 770.11            | ...  | ... | +3.15  | ...   |
| UK Smaller Companies A Acc i@467.93     | ...  | ... | -22.04 | ...   |
| UK Smaller Companies A Inc i@417.88     | ...  | ... | -19.76 | ...   |
| UK Special Situations A Acc i@139.93    | ...  | ... | -18.34 | 1.59  |
| UK Special Situations A Inc i@499.70    | ...  | ... | -6.58  | 1.63  |





SSE increased its charges for powering down the Foyers pumped hydro station on the banks of Loch Ness near Inverness, the energy regulator has found

# Lifting price at Loch Ness power plant earns monster fine for SSE

Helen Cahill

The energy regulator has fined SSE £9.78 million for overcharging during efforts to reduce output to stop the electricity grid becoming overloaded.

The FTSE 100 energy company has been issued with the penalty after an investigation into excessive payments it secured from National Grid.

The Perth-based SSE decided to substantially increase its charges for powering down a hydroelectric plant at Loch Ness in May 2020. Ofgem concluded that the rise in so-called bid prices from its Foyers power station had been designed to increase profits.

The penalty, which will be paid to the Energy Redress Fund that supports people most at risk from high energy bills, comes after SSE and other energy companies faced criticism from politicians for making excess profits from the

electricity system using similar practices. Rishi Sunak has said such methods are “clearly completely unacceptable” and that it is critical “consumers pay a fair price for their energy”.

Energy companies have been accused of exploiting the network’s “balancing mechanism” of payments that ensures the grid can match supply and demand. National Grid’s Electricity System Operator pays energy companies to increase or decrease their output to match demand, with the costs being met by consumers.

A Bloomberg investigation revealed that energy companies including SSE had received more than £500 million by using trading methods that abused the balancing mechanism. It found SSE had made £33 million from its own plants and an additional £87 million from a plant jointly owned with CK Infrastructure Holdings. SSE said

Ofgem had not found any behaviour that was “inconsistent with market rules” in relation to these payments.

SSE’s actions in Scotland breached its licence agreement with Ofgem, which stipulates it must not abuse its power over the grid system to charge excessive prices for balancing the electricity network. The watchdog said the breach had not been deliberate, but it had increased costs for consumers. SSE was able to reduce the level of the fine from £11.58 million to £9.78 million by settling the investigation early and by engaging constructively with the regulator.

Cathryn Scott, director of enforcement and emerging issues at Ofgem, said: “This enforcement action sends another strong signal to all generators that they must put in place controls to ensure that their bid prices are set in a way that ensures that they do not

obtain excessive benefits during transmission constraint periods. If they fail to do so, they will face significant consequences.”

A spokeswoman for SSE said: “We aim to comply with regulations at all times and believed we were doing so in this case. We co-operated fully with the investigation. Following the investigation, we are updating our relevant procedures accordingly.”

Ofgem concluded last year that power plants had been “intentionally” overcharging by saying they would cut off electricity through the wholesale market ahead of demanding higher prices through the balancing mechanism. The regulator said it had not found evidence of rule-breaking, but it was concerned that some power generators were being “immoderate”.

Shares in SSE rose by 17½p, 0.9 per cent, to £18.80½.

## Milk is on menu with £48m deal

Dominic Walsh

Associated British Foods has boosted its agri-food operation with the acquisition of a dairy technology business in a deal worth £48 million.

The Primark owner has agreed a 215p-a-share takeover of National Milk Records and said it had already secured backing from shareholders speaking for 69 per cent of the shares — just short of the 75 per cent it requires.

Its AB Agri unit, which is buying NMR, has more than 3,000 employees in 80 countries and works with about 2,000 UK dairy farms. It supplies animal feed, supplements and specialist ingredients, as well as services and expertise to farmers, feed and food manufacturers and retailers.

ABF said that adding NMR’s expertise would help its agriculture arm to deliver a better service to the dairy industry, initially in Britain, by offering products that provided “increased value, efficiency and ultimately profitability for farmers”.

José Nobre, 61, chief executive of AB Agri, said: “We have supported dairy farmers for more than 30 years with nutrition and specialty feed products and more recently with data and technology platforms, which deliver insights that create continuous improvement in agricultural supply chains.”

National Milk Records, which is listed on the Aquis Stock Exchange for smaller companies, provides milk recording and testing services and invoices more than 3,000 dairy farms each month. It also offers milk payment testing services to the majority of Britain’s milk processors and provides disease-testing for individual animals and whole-herd analysis through its laboratories.

ABF, which has a total of 132,000 employees in 53 countries, said the acquisition represented a premium of about 87 per cent to the NMR share price of 115p at Monday’s close and 94.6 per cent to the average price of 110½p over the past three months. For the past six months, the premium is 85.6 per cent.

News of the deal, which is expected to be completed in the third quarter, had little impact on the ABF share price. It fell by 2p, or 0.1 per cent, to £18.40.

THE TIMES  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

# Education Summit

Thursday, June 8, 2023 | From 8:30am

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## Emma Powell *Tempus* Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



# Underperformer has risky strategy

**JUPITER FUND MANAGEMENT**

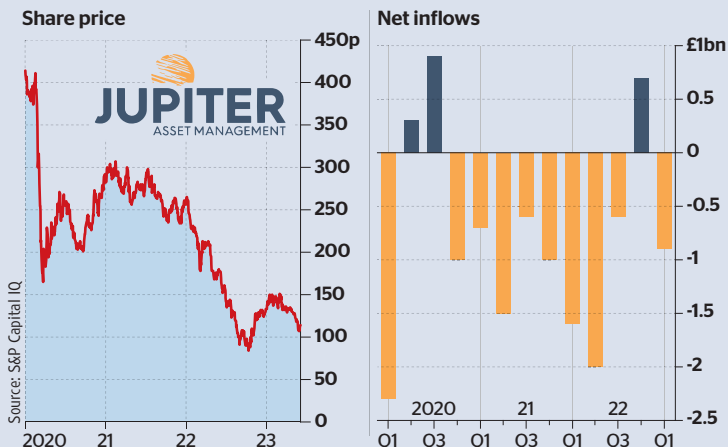
**Dividend yield** 7.4% **Funds under management** £55.3bn

Jupiter Fund Management is trying to march into the wind. A bias towards UK equity strategies, which have been spurned by investors, has hindered efforts to plug the stream of cash running out of the doors of the investment house.

The departure of Richard Buxton, the veteran stockpicker, which was announced last week, was the latest shake-up at the fund management group. Over the past five years, fund flows have been out in the black in only two quarters. In the first three months of this year, net outflows came to about £900 million, after a brief recovery of £700 million of net inflows in the wake of the mini-budget in the final quarter of 2022.

It's little surprise that investors' expectations have diminished. At just over nine times forward earnings, the shares trade at a discount to a ten-year average of thirteen, which is also lower than rivals like Schroders, whose weighting towards less fickle institutional funds has helped to retain funds in stormy markets.

For Jupiter, asset management on behalf of retail investors, more flighty in times of stress, accounts for 86 per cent of the total under its stable. Attracting more institutional clients is one area being targeted by Matthew Beesley, the boss appointed in October last year, to help to



**ADVICE** Avoid  
**WHY** Sluggish organic growth could continue to prevent profits, and the shares, recovering

engineer a turnaround. A weaker margin might be the trade-off, with net inflows of £1 billion from institutional investors one reason for the decline in the average net management fee margin to 73.5 basis points last year, from 76 basis points in 2021.

Another focus is attracting more funds from overseas. "Ex-UK

markets" account for 94 per cent of the capital up for grabs in the market, but only a third of Jupiter's assets under management. Addressing a middling performance will be necessary if it is to persuade more investors to place their cash with it. Over the past five years, only just under half of its funds were in the top half of their respective peer groups in terms of performance. On a three-year basis, that rises to only 54 per cent of funds by number and 49 per cent over 12 months.

Why does that matter so much? The FTSE 250 group epitomises the struggles faced by active managers against the rise of cheaper passive strategies. In a tougher environment,

Jupiter has been dealt the bloodiest nose. Over the past decade, it has underperformed all its London-listed peers by delivering a 74 per cent loss for shareholders.

Some of Jupiter's challenges have been more idiosyncratic in nature. It has faced scrutiny of the fees earned from Chrysalis, a London-listed investment trust focused on private companies, which it agreed to cut in December. In 2019, the defection of Alexander Darwall, a star fund manager, contributed towards clients pulling a net £4.5 billion in funds.

Beesley has sought to streamline costs, including shuttering a quarter of its funds and reducing headcount by 15 per cent. Expenses were about £30million lower last year, largely thanks to a fall in variable pay costs. Cost-cutting will only go so far. Jupiter's cost-to-income ratio rose to 69 per cent last year, up from 61 per cent in 2021. The 68 per cent decline in pre-tax profits last year outpaced a 15 per cent fall in revenue.

Launching more thematic funds is one of Beesley's hopes to improve income, a nod to the stance of the £390 million acquisition of Merian in 2020. But, as the £304 million in cash pulled from ESG funds last month shows, according to data from Calastone, managing funds on that basis rather than by geographical focus is no surefire way to lure assets.

A dividend yield north of 7 per cent might look appealing, but there are similarly attractive income prospects on offer that don't carry the same risk.

**CHEMRING**

|                            |                                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Market cap</b><br>£830m | <b>Half-year</b><br><b>revenue</b> £211m |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|

For investors in Chemring, any fears that orders delayed by the government budget stalemate in the United States would fail to materialise should be allayed. True, the prevarication over agreeing spending plans hit revenue over the first six months of the year, but the defence specialist's order book now stands at the highest level in more than a decade, at £750 million, more than 50 per cent higher than at the same point last year.

Roughly £232 million of that sum

will be worked through during the second half of the year, covering 90 per cent of the sum anticipated to meet annual revenue expectations for this year, which analysts at Berenberg put at £470 million, up from £443 million last year. Higher sales potential makes the discount embedded in the shares, which trade below the five-year average at 15 times forward earnings, less justified.

The war in Ukraine has increased demand for the rocket and missile defence and cybersecurity products that the FTSE 250 group makes. So, too, has a focus by the Biden administration on the perceived threat from China and strengthening military alliances across the Asia-

Pacific region. It comes after a decade-long contraction in the supply chain capacity for making propellant material for rocket and missile systems. Moreover, increased orders aren't being derived solely from increased government defence budgets but also by space launch programmes, with Chemring's customers ranging from Nasa to Elon Musk's SpaceX.

cybersecurity business has also been upgraded.

As far as funding its growth goes, Chemring has plenty of room. Net debt stood at £25 million, or 0.3 times adjusted earnings at the end of April, which explains a 21 per cent boost in the interim dividend to 2.3p a share. Next on the to-do list could be bolt-on deals.

**ADVICE Buy**  
**WHY** Constrained supply and heightened demand could feed through to faster sales growth than anticipated

## PRICES

## Major indices

|                  |                    |                                      |                             |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>New York</b>  |                    | <b>Zurich</b>                        |                             |
| Dow Jones        | 33573.28 (+10.42)  | SMI Index                            | 11468.27 (+53.27)           |
| Nasdaq Composite | 13276.42 (+46.99)  | DJ Euro Stoxx 50                     | 4295.22 (+1.98)             |
| S&P 500          | 4283.85 (+10.06)   |                                      |                             |
| <b>Tokyo</b>     |                    | <b>London</b>                        |                             |
| Nikkei 225       | 32506.78 (+289.35) | FTSE 100                             | 7628.10 (+28.11)            |
| <b>Hong Kong</b> |                    | FTSE 250                             | 19217.22 (+103.67)          |
| Hang Seng        | 19099.28 (-9.22)   | FTSE 350                             | 4208.76 (+16.53)            |
| <b>Amsterdam</b> |                    | FTSE Eurotop 100                     | 3629.54 (+12.63)            |
| AEX Index        | 762.22 (-1.12)     | FTSE All-Shares                      | 4167.20 (+16.31)            |
| <b>Sydney</b>    |                    | FTSE Non Financials                  | 5032.68 (+10.48)            |
| AO               | 7319.90 (-81.30)   | techMARK 100                         | 6800.65 (+16.77)            |
| <b>Frankfurt</b> |                    | Bargains                             | n/a                         |
| DAX              | 15992.44 (+28.55)  | US\$                                 | 1.2426 (-0.0004)            |
| <b>Singapore</b> |                    | Euro                                 | 1.1621 (+0.0016)            |
| Straits          | 3190.11 (+1.10)    | £:SDR                                | 0.98 (+0.00)                |
| <b>Brussels</b>  |                    | Exchange Index                       | 80.53 (-0.37)               |
| BEL20            | 3656.90 (+22.38)   | Bank of England official close (4pm) |                             |
| <b>Paris</b>     |                    | CPI                                  | 130.43 Apr (2015 = 100)     |
| CAC-40           | 7209.00 (+8.09)    | RPI                                  | 372.80 Apr (Jan 1987 = 100) |
|                  |                    | RPIX                                 | 290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100) |
|                  |                    | Morningstar Long Commodity           | 677.16 (+5.72)              |
|                  |                    | Morningstar Long/Short Commodity     | 4703.45 (+27.75)            |

| London Financial Futures |        |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
|                          | Period | Open   | High   | Low    | Sett   | Vol    | Open Int |
| Long Gilt                | Jun 23 | 97.050 | 97.100 | 96.470 | 96.620 | 527    | 1430     |
|                          | SEP 23 | 96.450 | 97.060 | 96.220 | 96.520 | 217165 | 489807   |
| 3-Mth Sterling           | Jun 23 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|                          | Sep 23 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|                          | Dec 23 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|                          | Mar 24 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|                          | Jun 24 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
| 3-Mth Euribor            | Jun 23 | 96.420 | 96.440 | 96.415 | 96.425 | 89512  | 533030   |
|                          | Sep 23 | 96.160 | 96.200 | 96.150 | 96.170 | 144501 | 590177   |
|                          | Dec 23 | 96.215 | 96.275 | 96.200 | 96.235 | 97323  | 416452   |
|                          | Mar 24 | 96.390 | 96.470 | 96.365 | 96.415 | 95705  | 388497   |
|                          | Jun 24 | 96.605 | 96.715 | 96.585 | 96.645 | 90826  | 314595   |
| 3-Mth Euroswiss          | Jun 23 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|                          | Sep 23 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|                          | Dec 23 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
|                          | Mar 24 |        |        |        |        |        |          |
| FTSE100                  | Jun 23 | 7586.0 | 7646.0 | 7558.0 | 7637.0 | 93664  | 589434   |
|                          | Sep 23 | 7606.0 | 7656.0 | 7577.0 | 7649.0 | 2788   | 21335    |
| FTSEurofirst 80          | Jun 23 |        |        |        | 5795.5 |        |          |
|                          | Sep 23 |        |        |        | 5836.5 |        |          |

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical

75.81

-0.56

BFOE(Aug)

76.31

-0.43

BFOE(Sep)

76.13

-0.38

WTI(Aug)

71.85

-0.41

WTI(Sep)

71.63

-0.40

Products (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld

850.00

854.00

-13.00

Gasoil FEE

704.75

705.75

-6.25

3.5 Fuel Oil

415.50

415.50

-7.50

Naphtha

571.00

584.00

-18.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun

697.75-697.50

Sep

688.75-688.50

Jul

689.50-689.00

Oct

690.50-690.00

Aug

687.75-687.25

Volume: 643287

Brent (9.00pm)

Aug

76.18-76.17

Nov

75.22-75.15

Sep

75.98-75.96

Dec

74.77-74.75

Oct

75.60-75.58

Volume: 20385944

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul

2354-2352

Sep

2183-2125

Sep

2331-2330

Dec

2156-2118

Dec

2295-2294

Mar

2051-2090

Mar

2254-2234

May

2240-2210

Jul

2204-2140

Volume: 87886

RobustaCoffee

Jul

2622-2610

Mar

2444-2390

Sep

2588-2586

May

2424-2437

Nov

2534-2497

Jan

2485-2350

Volume: 28399

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters

Mar

650.30-648.10

May

640.70-636.50

Aug

673.40-673.10

Aug

626.90-601.40

Oct

668.00-664.90

Oct

619.90-604.00

Dec

659.00-656.30

Volume: 77220





### Shock rate increase in Australia

Australia's central bank sprang a surprise by raising its key interest rate for a 12th time in a row and to the highest level since 2012 as it struggles to bring down inflation (Mehreen Khan writes).

The Reserve Bank of Australia raised borrowing costs by a quarter-point to 4.1 per

cent and warned that more rate rises may be needed to combat high inflation. Markets had expected no change to interest rates this month after the bank had carried out increases worth four percentage points since May last year.

Philip Lowe, the bank's governor, said: "Inflation in Australia has passed its peak but at 7 per cent is still too high and it will be some time yet before it is back in the target range.

"Some further tightening may be required to ensure that inflation returns to

target in a reasonable timeframe, but that will depend upon how the economy and inflation evolve."

The move comes after the Australian government said it would raise the country's minimum wage, putting upward pressure on salaries and raising the risk of higher price growth.

Australia's annual consumer prices inflation was stronger than expected at 6.8 per cent in April and is not forecast to return to the Bank's target rate of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent until 2025.

### The day's biggest movers

| Company               | Change                                              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 888 Holdings          | Interesting new shareholders 14.3%                  |
| Paragon Banking Group | Strong first half 9.4%                              |
| Chemring              | Record orders intake 9.1%                           |
| Indivior              | Pharma group's lawsuit settlement lifts shares 5.7% |
| Ocado                 | Investors move in on recent weakness 4.4%           |
| Vodafone              | Positive sentiment dries up -1.4%                   |
| Harbour Energy        | Oil prices drop -2%                                 |
| Urban Logistics Reit  | Negative read-across from peer -2.3%                |
| Asos                  | Frasers Group lifts stake -5.1%                     |
| Warehouse Reit        | Swings into full-year loss as valuation drops -6.5% |

# Warehouse isn't right call after annual pre-tax loss

Jessica Newman Market report

The sharp fall in the value of Warehouse Reit's portfolio was something the City simply could not look past, prompting shares in the commercial landlord to suffer their worst day since September.

The stock sank to the bottom of the FTSE 250 index after Warehouse Reit said it had swung to a pre-tax loss of £182.8 million for the year to the end of March, on the back of a 18.5 per cent like-for-like decline in the value of its property to £828.8 million.

Along with the other commercial landlords, it has suffered as property values have been hit by rapidly rising interest rates and the prospect of a recession. Nevertheless, Neil Kirton, its chairman, said that green shoots had started to appear since the end of

### Wall Street report

The falling oil price, driven down as optimism waned over Saudi Arabia's plans for a cut in output, weighed on the Dow Jones industrial average, which broke into positive territory at the end of the session to close up 10.42 points, 0.03 per cent, at 33,573.28.

the year, with "clearer signs that investors are returning to the market, evidenced by activity across the sector and our most recent sales".

Julian Livingston-Booth, of RBC Capital, the broker, pointed out a couple of potential issues facing the group. One, he reckoned, was that Warehouse Reit's legacy portfolio of older buildings let on shorter leases "appears more at risk from any temporary drop in tenant demand from a recession scenario". Second, an increase in rates and a deterioration in credit spreads could end up leading to a correction in the levels of earnings per share, "at least in the medium term", if the business is not able to generate enough rent growth in the meantime.

Shares in Warehouse Reit, which were changing hands for about 156p a year ago, finished the session 6½p, or 6.5 per cent, lower at 96½p.

After yo-yoing during trading, the FTSE 100 ended the session with an 28.11 points, or 0.4 per cent, increase

### LEISURE

## 'Entain four' make move on 888

Four former executives of Entain — the Ladbrokes and Sportingbet operator — have teamed up to push for changes at 888 Holdings after securing a stake of almost 7 per cent in the operator of William Hill and Mr Green (Dominic Walsh writes).

Kenny Alexander and Lee Feldman, respectively the former chief executive and chairman of Entain, are working with Stephen Morana, the former non-executive director, while Shay Segev, another former chief



888 Holdings won the race to buy the non-US assets of William Hill

executive, has handed them the voting rights for his 2.02 per cent.

The consortium, FS Gaming Investments, is based in Delaware and has secured backing from Daniel Shribman, chief investment officer at

B Riley Principal Investments, a Los Angeles-based firm. The consortium plans to use the 6.57 per cent stake — 4.55 per cent held by FS Gaming and Segev's 2.02 per cent — to put pressure on 888 to make changes to its board and strategy.

Feldman said: "This is an investment in a company that is undervalued." Shares in 888 closed up 10p, or 14.3 per cent, at 80p, having shed two thirds of their value over the previous 12 months.

An 888 spokesman said: "We welcome the investment."

to 7,628.10, while the FTSE 250 improved 103.67 points, or 0.5 per cent, to 19,217.22.

Abrdn, the investment company that started a £150 million share buyback on Monday, extended gains a further 8½p, or 4.1 per cent, to 218½p.

The recent sharp drop in the share price of Ocado presented an opportunity for investors to buy on the cheap, sending the online grocer up 15p, or 4.4 per cent, to 358½p.

Among the leading performers in the mid-cap index was Paragon Banking Group, which climbed 47½p, or 9.4 per cent, to 551p on the back of solid interim results.

Elsewhere, Oxford Metrics shot up after reporting a record first half, which means the software provider now thinks it is "well placed" to deliver full-year results ahead of market expectations. The shares, which settled at their highest level in more than three months, closed up 7½p, or 7.7 per cent, at 105p.

A 31.7 per cent increase in half-year

revenues boosted the bottom line at Gooch & Housego, which said its pre-tax profit had more than doubled to £3.3 million. Applause for the results spurred the advanced lens maker 14p, or 2.5 per cent, to 572p.

Team17, the video games developer that found fame with Worms, the cult classic, added 5p, or 1.4 per cent, to 355p after naming Steve Bell as Debbie Bestwick's successor as chief executive.

Of the minnows, Barkby Group, a company that has interests in property, hospitality and life sciences businesses, bounced off record lows to reach 4½p — climbing 1½p, or 44 per cent — after it said its Cambridge Sleep Sciences subsidiary had signed a big licensing deal. It revealed that Cambridge Sleep Sciences had granted Sleep Sense International a five-year global licence to manufacture a smart pillow using the former's SleepEngine platform. It expects to generate royalty payments of £1.25 million in the first 12 months.

|                             |        |                 |        |                 |     |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-----|
| London Grain Futures        |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)     |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| Jul                         | 165.00 | Nov             | 193.25 | Jan             | unq |
| Mar                         | unq    | May             | 201.50 | Volume:         | 931 |
| London Metal Exchange       |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| (Official)                  |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| Cash                        | 3mth   |                 |        | Dec 22          |     |
| Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)     |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| 8310.0-8311.0               |        | 8321.0-8322.0   |        | 8350.0-8360.0   |     |
| Lead (\$/tonne)             |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| 2034.0-2035.0               |        | 2028.0-2029.0   |        | 2065.0-2070.0   |     |
| Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne) |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| 2288.0-2290.0               |        | 2296.0-2298.0   |        | 2328.0-2333.0   |     |
| Alum Hi Gde (\$/tonne)      |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| 2171.0-2172.0               |        | 2218.5-2219.0   |        | 2380.0-2385.0   |     |
| Nickel (\$/tonne)           |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| 21045.0-21050.0             |        | 21125.0-21175.0 |        | 22315.0-22365.0 |     |
| Tin (\$/tonne)              |        |                 |        |                 |     |
| 26200.0-26250.0             |        | 25700.0-25750.0 |        | 24940.0-24990.0 |     |

|                                                                    |      |      |      |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)                        |      |      |      |       |
| Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Monday. |      |      |      |       |
| Bullion: Open \$1961.48                                            |      |      |      |       |
| Close \$1961.38-1961.62 High \$1966.20                             |      |      |      |       |
| Low \$1954.54                                                      |      |      |      |       |
| AM \$1942.50 PM \$1959.65                                          |      |      |      |       |
| Platinum \$1092.00 (£879.16)                                       |      |      |      |       |
| Silver \$23.59 (£18.99)                                            |      |      |      |       |
| Palladium \$1721.11 (£1385.65)                                     |      |      |      |       |
| European money deposits %                                          |      |      |      |       |
| Currency                                                           | 1mth | 3mth | 6mth | 12mth |
| Dollar                                                             | 0.13 | 0.20 | 0.29 | 0.55  |
| Sterling                                                           | 4.20 | 4.91 | 4.74 | 0.81  |
| Euro                                                               | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.50  |

|                                                                                    |               |               |           |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Money rates %                                                                      |               |               |           |                     |
| Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75                 |               |               |           |                     |
| Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99                                                         |               |               |           |                     |
| Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.510; 3 mth 4.848. Sell: 1 mth 4.300; 3 mth 4.500 |               |               |           |                     |
| Interbank Rates                                                                    | 1 mth         | 2 mth         | 3 mth     | 6 mth 12 mth        |
|                                                                                    | 4.2013        | 0.000         | 4.9113    | 4.7447 0.00         |
| Eurodollar Deps                                                                    | 5.51-5.55     | 0.00-0.00     | 5.04-5.04 | 4.67-4.67 3.82-3.82 |
| Sterling spot and forward rates                                                    |               |               |           |                     |
| Mkt Rates for                                                                      | Range         | Close         | 1 month   | 3 month             |
| Copenhagen                                                                         | 8.6362-8.6575 | 8.6539-8.6551 | 133ds     | 400ds               |
| Euro                                                                               | 1.1624-1.1595 | 1.1619-1.1618 | 10pr      | 32pr                |
| Montreal                                                                           | 1.6630-1.6721 | 1.6663-1.6664 | 2ds       | 8ds                 |
| New York                                                                           | 1.2393-1.2457 | 1.2419-1.2421 | 8pr       | 18pr                |
| Oslo                                                                               | 13.686-13.829 | 13.766-13.769 | 121ds     | 355ds               |
| Stockholm                                                                          | 13.442-13.563 | 13.548-13.558 | 238ds     | 658ds               |
| Tokyo                                                                              | 172.68-173.74 | 173.45-173.46 | 75ds      | 223ds               |
| Zurich                                                                             | 1.1239-1.1281 | 1.1273-1.1275 | 34ds      | 98ds                |
| Premium = pr Discount = ds                                                         |               |               |           |                     |

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Dollar rates       |               |
| Australia          | 1.4985-1.4986 |
| Canada             | 1.3417-1.3417 |
| Denmark            | 6.9682-6.9687 |
| Euro               | 0.9354-0.9355 |
| Hong Kong          | 7.8435-7.8437 |
| Japan              | 139.66-139.66 |
| Malaysia           | 4.6050-4.6100 |
| Norway             | 11.082-11.088 |
| Singapore          | 1.3485-1.3487 |
| Sweden             | 10.908-10.917 |
| Switzerland        | 0.9077-0.9078 |
| Other Sterling     |               |
| Argentina peso     | 302.08-302.09 |
| Australia dollar   | 1.8610-1.8613 |
| Bahrain dinar      | 0.4647-0.4717 |
| Brazil real        | 6.0901-6.1050 |
| Euro               | 1.1618-1.1619 |
| Hong Kong dollar   | 9.7410-9.7420 |
| India rupee        | 102.49-102.50 |
| Indonesia rupiah   | 18458-18461   |
| Kuwait dinar KD    | 0.3810-0.3833 |
| Malaysia ringgit   | 5.7144-5.7206 |
| New Zealand dollar | 2.0452-2.0457 |
| Singapore dollar   | 1.6748-1.6751 |
| S Africa rand      | 23.886-23.897 |
| U A E dirham       | 4.5574-4.5598 |

|                                                                                                                  |           |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Exchange rates                                                                                                   |           |        |
|                                                                                                                  | Bid       | Change |
| Australia \$                                                                                                     | 1.862     | -0.01  |
| Canada \$                                                                                                        | 1.664     |        |
| Denmark Kr                                                                                                       | 8.645     | +0.02  |
| Euro €                                                                                                           | 1.161     |        |
| Hong Kong \$                                                                                                     | 9.731     | +0.01  |
| Hungary                                                                                                          | 427.426   | +0.21  |
| Indonesia                                                                                                        | 18437.640 | -40.20 |
| Israel Shk                                                                                                       | 4.589     | -0.05  |
| Japan Yen                                                                                                        | 173.439   | +0.13  |
| New Zealand \$                                                                                                   | 2.046     |        |
| Norway Kr                                                                                                        | 13.754    | +0.04  |
| Poland                                                                                                           | 5.206     | +0.02  |
| Russia                                                                                                           | 101.277   | +0.73  |
| S Africa Rd                                                                                                      | 23.902    | -0.01  |
| Sweden Kr                                                                                                        | 13.540    | +0.04  |
| Switzerland Fr                                                                                                   | 1.127     |        |
| Turkey Lira                                                                                                      | 26.678    | +0.31  |
| USA \$                                                                                                           | 1.241     |        |
| Rates supplied by Morningstar                                                                                    |           |        |
| MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication |           |        |



# Business Equity prices

**Dividend yields** Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.  
**12-month high and low** Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

| 12 month<br>High Low Company        | Price<br>(p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|------|----------|
| Automobiles & parts                 |              |     |      |          |
| 297 89½ Aston Martin Lag            | 274½         | +   | 6½   | ... -1.6 |
| Banking & finance                   |              |     |      |          |
| 236 133 <b>Abrdn</b>                | 218½         | +   | 8½   | ... 4.7  |
| 2392 1729 <b>Admiral</b>            | 2392         | +   | 28   | ... 12.2 |
| 49½ 23½ <b>ADVFN</b> ◆              | 23½          | ... | ...  | ... 4.1  |
| 390 255½ <b>AJ Bell</b>             | 322          | +   | 3½   | ... 30.1 |
| 26850½ 19048½ <b>Aon Corp</b> n     | 25166        | -   | 124½ | ... 61.4 |
| 42½ 23½ <b>Appreciate Group</b> ◆   | 42½          | ... | ...  | ... 18.3 |
| 1002½ 645 <b>Arbutnot Big</b> ◆     | 935          | -   | 5    | ... 20.6 |
| 14 8½ <b>Argo Group</b> ◆           | 9            | ... | ...  | ... 4.1  |
| 286½ 130½ <b>Ashmore</b>            | 233½         | +   | 2½   | ... 7.9  |
| 1360½ 1099½ <b>Aus New Z</b>        | 1220½        | -   | 20½  | ... 9.5  |
| 467½ 373½ <b>Aviva</b>              | 407½         | +   | 2½   | ... 53.6 |
| 341½ 1393½ <b>Banco Santander</b>   | 277½         | +   | 5    | ... 6.4  |
| 3375 1306 <b>Bank of Georgia</b>    | 3060         | +   | 30   | ... 9.4  |
| 189½ 133½ <b>Barclays</b>           | 158½         | +   | 2½   | ... 3.8  |
| ½ ... <b>Blue Star Capital</b> ◆    | ½            | ... | ...  | ... 3.7  |
| 346 283 <b>BP Marsh&amp;Ptnrs</b> ◆ | 342          | +   | 4    | ... 9.4  |
| 14½ 6½ <b>Braveheart Inv</b> ◆      | 14½          | ... | ...  | ... 0.3  |
| 515 507 <b>Brewin Dolphin</b>       | 515          | +   | 1    | ... 28.1 |
| 337 173½ <b>Bridgepoint</b>         | 225½         | +   | 1½   | ... 14.1 |
| 64 30½ <b>Centkos Secs</b> ◆        | 30½          | +   | ½    | ... 6.2  |
| 325 262½ <b>Chesnara</b>            | 283½         | +   | 3    | ... 15.7 |
| 53 9 <b>City of Lon G</b> ◆         | 10           | +   | 1    | ... -0.6 |
| 470 343½ <b>City Lon Inv Gp</b>     | 439½         | -   | 1½   | ... 10.3 |
| 1148 858½ <b>Close Bros</b>         | 975½         | +   | 20½  | ... 7.2  |
| 312 167 <b>CMC Markets</b>          | 175½         | -   | ½    | ... 5.3  |
| 1023½ 491½ <b>Commerzkb</b>         | 828½         | +   | 9½   | ... 42.4 |
| 1057½ 650½ <b>Deutsche Bk</b>       | 843          | +   | 7½   | ... 9.8  |
| 260½ 135 <b>Direct Line Ins</b>     | 167½         | +   | 2½   | ... 6.9  |
| 58½ 57 <b>Downing ONE VCT</b>       | 57           | ... | ...  | ... 7.7  |

## Investment companies

| 12 month<br>High Low Company          | Price<br>(p) | +/- | Yld % | Dis(-)<br>% or Pm |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-------|-------------------|
| 2000 1042 <b>3i Group</b>             | 2000         | +   | 44½   | ... 11.5          |
| 363 281½ <b>3i Infrastructure</b>     | 317          | +   | 1½    | ... -6.6          |
| 102 80½ <b>Abrdn Div I&amp;G</b>      | 86           | +   | ½     | ... -26.5         |
| 1428 1066 <b>Aberforth Smir</b>       | 1268         | -   | 6     | ... -12.8         |
| 1046 876 <b>Alliance</b>              | 1018         | +   | 10    | ... -6.1          |
| 457 345 <b>Asia Dragon Tr</b>         | 395          | +   | 3     | ... -11.6         |
| 228½ 171½ <b>Athelney Trust</b>       | 195          | ... | ...   | ... -12.9         |
| 206½ 171½ <b>AVI Global Trust</b>     | 194½         | +   | 1½    | ... -10.4         |
| 348 204½ <b>Baillie Gifford Ch Gr</b> | 224          | +   | 3     | ... -13.2         |
| 102½ 73½ <b>Baillie Gifford Eu Gr</b> | 93½          | -   | ½     | ... -14.6         |
| 829 657 <b>Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr</b> | 773          | +   | 17    | ... -10.2         |
| 168 131½ <b>Baillie Gifford SN</b>    | 148½         | +   | 1½    | ... -10.3         |
| 183 139½ <b>Baillie Gifford UK Gr</b> | 167½         | ... | ...   | ... -13.9         |
| 109 90½ <b>Bankers</b>                | 100½         | +   | ½     | ... -11.3         |
| 5232 380 <b>BH Macro</b>              | 405          | +   | 4     | ... 2.0           |
| 1048 745½ <b>Biotech Growth</b>       | 873          | +   | 6     | ... -7.8          |
| 151 95 <b>BickRck Com Inc</b>         | 115½         | +   | ½     | ... -9.7          |
| 144½ 116½ <b>BickRck Fro Inv</b>      | 139½         | +   | 1½    | ... -9.2          |
| 566 396 <b>BickRck Grt Euro</b>       | 547          | ... | ...   | ... -4.7          |
| 206 165 <b>BickRck Inc &amp; Gwth</b> | 188          | -   | 1     | ... -10.2         |
| 435 330 <b>BickRck Latin Am</b>       | 402½         | +   | 6½    | ... -13.6         |
| 215 179½ <b>BickRck SustAm</b>        | 186½         | +   | 1     | ... -5.9          |
| 1526 1162 <b>BickRck Smir</b>         | 1330         | +   | 4     | ... -11.9         |
| 670 477½ <b>BickRck Throgmorton</b>   | 617          | +   | 7     | ... -3.5          |
| 774 524 <b>BickRck Wid Min</b>        | 622          | +   | 5     | ... 0.1           |
| 325 256 <b>CT Cap&amp;Inc</b>         | 307          | +   | 4     | ... -3.8          |
| 121 68½ <b>Balanced Comm Prop</b>     | 81½          | +   | 1     | ... -32.0         |
| 162½ 122 <b>The Gbl Smaller</b>       | 146          | +   | 1½    | ... -13.3         |
| 534 375½ <b>CT Priv Eq Ord</b>        | 495½         | +   | 8     | ... -30.3         |
| 92½ 60 <b>CT Real Estate</b>          | 87½          | +   | 1½    | ... -11.3         |
| 90 71 <b>CT UK HIT</b>                | 85           | ... | ...   | ... -5.7          |
| 93 79 <b>CT UK HIT B</b>              | 92           | ... | ...   | ... 2.0           |
| 356 294 <b>CT UK HIT UNIT</b>         | 334          | ... | ...   | ... -7.4          |
| 1335 1072½ <b>Brown Advsr US Sm</b>   | 1210         | +   | 2½    | ... -14.1         |
| 1115 888 <b>Brunner</b>               | 1072½        | +   | 5     | ... -12.0         |
| 4065 3015 <b>Caledonia Inv</b>        | 3500         | ... | ...   | ... -30.8         |
| 175 130½ <b>Investco BondInc</b>      | 162½         | ... | ...   | ... 1.3           |
| 432 366½ <b>Gty of Lon IT</b>         | 409          | +   | ½     | ... 2.1           |
| 121 75 <b>Crystal Amber Fd</b>        | 81           | ... | ...   | ... -32.0         |
| 580 454 <b>Dunedin Entp</b>           | 560          | ... | ...   | ... -8.4          |
| 690 537 <b>Edinburgh IT</b>           | 666          | +   | 3     | ... -7.4          |
| 214 144½ <b>Edin Wwide</b>            | 148½         | -   | ½     | ... -19.1         |
| 336 268 <b>EP Global Opp</b>          | 326          | -   | 1     | ... -9.6          |
| 105 74½ <b>European Assets</b>        | 90½          | ... | ...   | ... -8.8          |
| 796 608 <b>European Opp Tr</b>        | 790          | +   | 6     | ... -11.6         |
| 989 769 <b>F&amp;C Invest Tr</b>      | 911          | +   | 4     | ... -5.6          |
| 530½ 413½ <b>Fiditty Asian Val</b>    | 524          | -   | 2     | ... ...           |
| 294½ 178½ <b>Fidelity China Sp</b>    | 219          | -   | ½     | ... -8.0          |
| 362 258½ <b>Fiditty Euro Val</b>      | 351½         | ... | ...   | ... -4.6          |
| 186 143 <b>Fiditty Jap Tru</b>        | 186          | +   | 2½    | ... -8.2          |
| 293½ 232 <b>Fiditty Spec Val</b>      | 278          | +   | ½     | ... -6.2          |
| 923 731½ <b>Fins Gwth &amp; Inc</b>   | 889          | +   | 2     | ... -3.9          |
| 118½ 81 <b>GCP Infrastructure</b>     | 81½          | -   | 1½    | ... -25.7         |
| 659½ 552½ <b>GCP Emer Mkts</b>        | 602½         | +   | 4½    | ... -13.3         |
| 45 28½ <b>Gldn Prosp Prc Mit</b>      | 31½          | ... | ...   | ... -17.2         |
| 168½ 130½ <b>Greencoat UK Wind</b>    | 148½         | ... | ...   | ... -10.3         |
| 194½ 161 <b>Hansa Investment</b>      | 166          | +   | 3     | ... -45.4         |
| 196 160 <b>Hansa Inv Co 'A'</b>       | 167½         | ... | ...   | ... -44.9         |
| 2489 1900 <b>Hbrvest Gbl Pt Eq</b>    | 2195         | -   | 20    | ... -42.5         |
| 165½ 120½ <b>Hend Euro Fco</b>        | 156½         | -   | ½     | ... -10.2         |
| 181 137½ <b>Hend High Inc</b>         | 172          | +   | 4     | ... -1.3          |
| 952 674½ <b>Hend Smir</b>             | 800          | -   | 4     | ... -12.3         |
| 1966 1540 <b>Herald</b>               | 1820         | ... | ...   | ... -13.9         |
| 418 310 <b>HqCapital Trust</b>        | 404½         | +   | 6     | ... -14.7         |
| 183½ 138½ <b>HICL Infra</b>           | 144          | +   | 1½    | ... -13.0         |
| 450 216 <b>Highbridge Tactical</b>    | 389          | ... | ...   | ... 47.5          |

| 12 month |      |                              | Price |     |      |     |      |
|----------|------|------------------------------|-------|-----|------|-----|------|
| High     | Low  | Company                      | (p)   | +/- | Yld% | P/E |      |
| 7½       | ...  | Drumz◆                       | 7½    | +   | ¼    | ... | ...  |
| 127½     | 59½  | EFG-Hermes Hldg              | 64½   | ... | ...  | ... | 4.1  |
| 211      | 122½ | EPE Special Opps◆            | 156   | -   | 3    | ... | 8.7  |
| 1215     | 820½ | FBD                          | 1128½ | +   | 12½  | ... | 5.0  |
| 72½      | 66   | Fiske◆                       | 66½   | +   | ½    | ... | 11.8 |
| 78       | 59   | Frenkel Topping◆             | 70    | ... | ...  | ... | 40.7 |
| 849      | 548  | Georgia Capital              | 826   | +   | 22   | ... | 2.2  |
| 900      | 682  | Gresham House◆               | 732   | -   | 5    | ... | 29.3 |
| 506      | 320  | H&T Group◆                   | 427   | +   | 6    | ... | 13.6 |
| 55½      | 33   | Hansard Global               | 51½   | -   | ½    | ... | 17.8 |
| 983      | 740½ | Hargreaves Lansdown◆         | 728½  | +   | 14½  | ... | 14.7 |
| 172½     | 143½ | Helios Under◆                | 172   | -   | 3    | ... | ...  |
| 647½     | 442½ | HSBC◆                        | 610½  | +   | 4½   | ... | 13.3 |
| 847½     | 648  | IG Group                     | 699   | +   | 6½   | ... | 7.1  |
| 883      | 500  | Impax◆                       | 655   | +   | 20   | ... | 21.6 |
| 1599     | 953½ | Intermed Capital             | 1446  | +   | 24   | ... | 8.3  |
| 114      | 64½  | IPF                          | 111½  | -   | 1½   | ... | 6.2  |
| 170      | 136  | International Public P'ship◆ | 137½  | ... | ...  | ... | 17.6 |
| 546½     | 351½ | Investec                     | 449½  | +   | 11   | ... | 11.3 |
| 330      | 253  | Investment Co                | 330   | ... | ...  | ... | 11.8 |
| 88       | 52½  | IP Group◆                    | 56    | +   | ½    | ... | 2.1  |
| 230      | 94   | Jarvis Securities◆           | 160   | ... | ...  | ... | 11.5 |
| 177      | 83½  | Jupiter Fund Mgmt            | 115   | +   | 1½   | ... | 4.2  |
| 95½      | 55½  | Just Group                   | 84    | +   | ½    | ... | ...  |
| 664      | 368½ | Lancashire Holdings          | 623   | -   | 1½   | ... | ...  |
| 284½     | 204  | Legal & Gen                  | 240½  | +   | 5½   | ... | 7.3  |
| ...      | ...  | Liberty Group                | 502½  | -   | 2½   | ... | ...  |
| 1290     | 704  | Liontrust                    | 808½  | +   | 10   | ... | 10.1 |
| 55½      | 37½  | Livermore Invs◆              | 38½   | ... | ...  | ... | 2.4  |
| 53½      | 39   | Lloyds Banking Group◆        | 45½   | +   | ½    | ... | 6.2  |
| 33       | 22   | LMS Capital◆                 | 24½   | ... | ...  | ... | 10.6 |

| 12 month<br>High Low Company           | Price<br>(p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E      |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|-----|------|----------|
| 8774 6738 <b>Lord Stk Ex Gp</b>        | 8774         | +   | 112  | ... 89.7 |
| 222½ 159½ <b>M&amp;G</b>               | 203½         | +   | 1½   | ... 63.5 |
| 286½ 204½ <b>Man</b>                   | 224½         | +   | 3½   | ... 9.0  |
| 29 8 <b>Manx Fin</b> ◆                 | 23½          | ... | ...  | ... 11.9 |
| 3 1 <b>Marechale Cap</b> ◆             | 1½           | ... | ...  | ... 0.7  |
| 14503½ 11528½ <b>Marsh McLn</b>        | 14205        | -   | 12   | ... 29.5 |
| 725 530 <b>Mattioli Woods</b> ◆        | 615          | -   | 15   | ... ...  |
| 19½ 7½ <b>Metal Tiger</b> ◆            | 9            | +   | ¼    | ... 3.5  |
| 153½ 69 <b>Metro Bank</b>              | 102          | -   | 1½   | ... -0.7 |
| 1714½ 1357½ <b>Nat Aust Bk</b>         | 1383½        | -   | 15½  | ... 13.7 |
| 309½ 212½ <b>NatWest</b>               | 260½         | +   | 2½   | ... 10.2 |
| 341 170½ <b>Numis</b> ◆                | 333½         | +   | ½    | ... 6.7  |
| 587½ 375½ <b>Onesavings Bank</b>       | 536½         | +   | 21   | ... 7.1  |
| 652 386 <b>PayPoint</b>                | 407          | -   | 3    | ... 12.7 |
| 6 ½ <b>PCF Group</b> ◆                 | ¾            | +   | ¼    | ... -0.4 |
| 684½ 506½ <b>Phoenix</b>               | 565½         | +   | 4½   | ... -6.5 |
| 253½ 136½ <b>Provident</b>             | 225          | ... | ...  | ... 4.2  |
| 1371½ 797½ <b>Prudential</b>           | 1145½        | +   | 8½   | ... 18.6 |
| 2½ ¾ <b>Quantum Blockchain</b> ◆       | 1½           | ... | ...  | ... -8.9 |
| 122½ 80½ <b>Quilter</b>                | 88           | +   | 1½   | ... 62.8 |
| 109½ 51 <b>Randall &amp; Quilter</b> ◆ | 59½          | +   | 6½   | ... 88.3 |
| 2220 1570 <b>Rathbone Grp</b>          | 1996         | +   | 18   | ... 15.4 |
| 1 ½ <b>RiverFort Global Opps</b> ◆     | ½            | ... | ...  | ... 2.0  |
| 2050 1370 <b>Rockwood Strategic</b>    | 2050         | ... | ...  | ... 3.0  |
| 2570 1905 <b>S &amp; U</b>             | 2370         | ... | ...  | ... 11.1 |
| 2 ¾ <b>Sancus Lending Grp</b> ◆        | ¾            | ... | ...  | ... -0.3 |
| 56½ 40½ <b>Schroder REIT</b>           | 44½          | ... | ...  | ... 4.7  |
| 604½ 358½ <b>Schroders</b>             | 463½         | +   | 4½   | ... 2.1  |
| 1304½ 920 <b>St James Place</b>        | 1162½        | +   | 15½  | ... 22.1 |
| 790½ 519½ <b>Stand Chart</b>           | 671½         | +   | 12½  | ... 15.0 |
| 12 6½ <b>Starvest</b> ◆                | 7            | ... | ...  | ... -1.1 |

| 12 month<br>High Low Company         | Price<br>(p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----|------|----------|
| 338 218 <b>Boot (Henry)</b>          | 240          | -   | 2    | ... 12.8 |
| 536 324½ <b>Br Land</b>              | 356½         | +   | 3½   | ... 48.8 |
| 167½ 120 <b>Caledonian Tst</b> ◆     | 160          | ... | ...  | ... 31.9 |
| 64½ 43½ <b>Cap &amp; Regnl</b>       | 58½          | +   | 1½   | ... -0.5 |
| 2550 2310 <b>Cardiff Prop</b> ◆      | 2430         | ... | ...  | ... 26.4 |
| 25 2½ <b>Carecapital</b> ◆           | 5            | -   | ¼    | ... -0.5 |
| 170 106 <b>Clarke T</b>              | 155          | +   | 1    | ... 11.1 |
| 291½ 191½ <b>Countryside Partner</b> | 229½         | +   | 14   | ... 16.7 |
| 27½ 5½ <b>Craven House</b> ◆         | 13½          | ... | ...  | ... -0.2 |
| 4353 2756½ <b>CRH</b>                | 3858         | -   | 25   | ... 16.0 |
| 2988 1876 <b>Derwent London</b>      | 2230         | +   | 20   | ... 9.9  |
| 4 3 <b>Dolphin Capital</b> ◆         | 3½           | ... | ...  | ... -2.7 |
| 31½ 22 <b>First Prop</b> ◆           | 27           | ... | ...  | ... ...  |
| 47½ 36½ <b>Fletcher King</b> ◆       | 36½          | -   | 1    | ... ...  |
| 44 27½ <b>Foxtons Group</b>          | 39½          | +   | ¾    | ... ...  |
| 186 145 <b>Galliford Try</b>         | 183½         | +   | ¾    | ... 40.7 |
| 470 252½ <b>Genuit Group</b>         | 321½         | -   | 2½   | ... 19.4 |
| 570 335 <b>Gleeson (MJ)</b>          | 421          | -   | 5    | ... 6.5  |
| 988½ 630½ <b>Grafton</b>             | 856½         | +   | 1½   | ... 9.9  |
| 310½ 205½ <b>Grainger</b> ◆          | 255          | +   | 1½   | ... 15.8 |
| 658½ 409½ <b>Great Portland</b> ◆    | 504          | +   | 5    | ... -6.3 |
| 30½ 17½ <b>Hammons</b>               | 26½          | +   | ½    | ... -2.8 |
| 171 101 <b>Harworth Gp</b>           | 119          | ... | ...  | ... 4.1  |
| 630 425 <b>Heath (Samuel)</b> ◆      | 425          | ... | ...  | ... 8.8  |
| 431½ 243½ <b>Helical PLC</b>         | 273½         | ... | ...  | ... 6.6  |
| 1065 865 <b>Highcroft Invs</b>       | 865          | ... | ...  | ... 3.7  |
| 208½ 148½ <b>Ibstock</b>             | 162½         | -   | ¾    | ... 21.0 |
| 234 176 <b>James Halstead</b> ◆      | 219          | +   | 2    | ... 23.3 |
| 849 591 <b>Keller</b> ◆              | 673          | ... | ...  | ... 7.8  |
| 6603½ 3846½ <b>Kingspan Group</b>    | 5540½        | -   | 38½  | ... 21.7 |
| 771½ 485½ <b>Land Sec</b>            | 631½         | +   | 7½   | ... ...  |

| 12 month<br>High Low Company        | Price<br>(p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|------|----------|
| 115½ 66½ <b>Sirius Real Estate</b>  | 89½          | +   | 1    | ... 6.9  |
| 173½ 160½ <b>Smart (J)</b>          | 164½         | ... | ...  | ... 4.5  |
| 50 30½ <b>Steppe Cement</b> ◆       | 34           | -   | 2    | ... 7.8  |
| 131½ 85 <b>Taylor Wimpey</b>        | 117½         | -   | ¼    | ... 7.7  |
| 178½ 129 <b>Town Centre</b> ◆       | 137½         | ... | ...  | ... 5.4  |
| 1223½ 738 <b>Travis Perkins</b>     | 889½         | -   | 4    | ... 8.6  |
| 202 125½ <b>Tritax Big Box Reit</b> | 144½         | +   | ½    | ... 2.6  |
| 98½ 57 <b>Tritax Eurobox</b> ◆      | 61½          | +   | ¼    | ... ...  |
| 306½ 184½ <b>Tyman</b>              | 267½         | -   | ½    | ... 10.5 |
| 1207 791½ <b>Unite</b>              | 915½         | +   | 8½   | ... 10.6 |
| 938½ 519½ <b>Vistry Group</b>       | 776½         | +   | 3½   | ... 6.8  |
| 165 91 <b>Warehouse REIT</b>        | 96½          | -   | 6½   | ... 2.2  |
| 722 343½ <b>Workspace Grp</b>       | 537          | +   | 10   | ... -7.9 |
| 755 622½ <b>Wynnstay Props</b> ◆    | 675          | ... | ...  | ... 4.8  |

## Consumer goods

|       |       |                   |       |     |     |           |
|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------|
| 59½   | 1     | Agrittera◆        | 1½    | ... | ... | -0.1      |
| 39½   | 25½   | Airea◆            | 33½   | +   | 1½  | ... 12.4  |
| 952   | 740   | Anglo-Eastern◆    | 810   | -   | 6   | ... 7.4   |
| 306   | 147½  | Animalcare◆       | 181½  | ... | ... | ...       |
| 2070  | 1237  | AB Foods◆         | 1840  | -   | 2   | ... 30.4  |
| 121   | 79    | Balkavor Group    | 95½   | +   | 3¼  | ... 9.9   |
| 161   | 432   | Barr (AG)◆        | 517   | +   | 2   | ... 18.3  |
| 3½    | 1½    | Bitstock Group◆   | 1½    | ... | ... | -1.5      |
| 66    | 24½   | Brand Architecte◆ | 33½   | ... | ... | -1.4      |
| 3628  | 2554½ | Brit Amer Tob     | 2609  | +   | 38½ | ... 8.8   |
| 936   | 707½  | Britvic◆          | 891½  | +   | 6½  | ... 20.2  |
| 2641  | 1580  | Burberry          | 2208  | +   | 37  | ... 19.0  |
| 203½  | 131   | C&C Grp           | 141½  | +   | ⅞   | ... -8.4  |
| 6¼    | 2½    | Capital Metals◆   | 2½    | ... | ... | -0.5      |
| 145½  | 92    | Carr's Grp◆       | 145½  | -   | 2½  | ... -17.9 |
| 525   | 296   | Character Grp◆    | 305   | +   | 2   | ... 5.4   |
| 1640  | 1070  | Churchill Chinn◆  | 1375  | ... | ... | ...       |
| 2565  | 1674  | Coca Cola HBC◆    | 2386  | +   | 4   | ... 19.0  |
| 880   | 610   | Colefax◆          | 752½  | ... | ... | ... 13.3  |
| 8340  | 2586  | Cranswick         | 3284  | +   | 14  | ... 17.3  |
| 329   | 164   | Devro             | 329   | ... | ... | ...       |
| 8960  | 3347  | Diageo            | 3351  | +   | 19  | ... 25.7  |
| 1½    | ¾     | Disti◆            | ¾     | ... | ... | -11.2     |
| 1000  | 760   | Evans (M.P.)◆     | 760   | -   | 2   | ... 6.5   |
| 103½  | 68    | Finsbury Food◆    | 92    | ... | ... | ... 10.9  |
| 9920  | 5690  | Games Workshop    | 9525  | -   | 10  | ... 26.2  |
| 1212  | 832   | Glanbia           | 1173½ | ... | ... | ... 28.9  |
| 114½  | 60¼   | Greencore         | 80¼   | ... | ... | ... 16.0  |
| 348   | 231   | Headlam           | 258   | +   | 1   | ... 11.1  |
| 1106  | 500   | Hilton Food◆      | 680   | +   | 2   | ... 14.4  |
| 31½   | 22    | Hornby◆           | 23    | ... | ... | ...       |
| 2185  | 1695  | Imperial Brands◆  | 1740  | +   | 6½  | ... 5.8   |
| 1½    | 1¼    | J Lewis Hfard◆    | 1¼    | -   | ⅞   | ... 7.3   |
| 321½  | 7150¼ | Kerry Grp         | 8008½ | +   | 21½ | ... 22.1  |
| 32½   | 15½   | McBride           | 30    | +   | 1   | ... -5.3  |
| 305   | 205   | Mulberry Group◆   | 255   | ... | ... | ... 10.5  |
| 1320  | 970   | Nichols◆          | 980   | +   | 10  | ... ...   |
| 249   | 165   | Norcor            | 181   | +   | 2   | ... 5.7   |
| 375   | 291½  | Origin Ents◆      | 297½  | ... | ... | ... 9.3   |
| 14½   | ⅞     | Pittards◆         | 6¼    | -   | ⅞   | ... 2.9   |
| 512½  | 300   | Portmerion◆       | 413   | ... | ... | ... 17.5  |
| 7¼    | ¾     | Proxavis◆         | ¾     | ... | ... | ... 0.3   |
| 221   | 170¼  | PEZ Cussons       | 192½  | +   | 2⅞  | ... 22.1  |
| 16½   | 87¼   | REA               | 87¼   | -   | 1½  | ... -6.9  |
| 2     | 1     | Real GD Fd◆       | 1     | ... | ... | ... 0.1   |
| 340   | 235   | Tandem◆           | 240   | ... | ... | ... 3.4   |
| 904   | 507   | Trealt            | 713   | +   | 6   | ... 28.6  |
| 3¼    | 1¼    | Ukproduct Gr◆     | 2     | ... | ... | ... -1.3  |
| 5051  | 4166½ | Unilever (NV)     | ...   | ... | ... | ...       |
| 4443½ | 3553½ | Unilever◆         | 4044½ | -   | 26½ | ... 20.7  |
| 607   | 317   | Victoria◆         | 607   | +   | 20  | ... ...   |

Engineering

|      |      |                |      |     |     |          |
|------|------|----------------|------|-----|-----|----------|
| ...  | ...  | Ass Br Eng◆    | 15   | ... | ... | -3.5     |
| 1200 | 739  | Avon Rubber    | 902  | -   | 18  | ...      |
| 367½ | 268½ | Babcock        | 312½ | +   | 1   | ... -1.9 |
| 1032 | 714  | BAE            | 940  | +   | 5¼  | ... 17.1 |
| 2150 | 1250 | Braime A N/V◆  | 1400 | ... | ... | ... 15.7 |
| 1800 | 1500 | Braime Group◆  | 1800 | +   | 150 | ... 20.3 |
| 602½ | 475  | Caffyns        | 475  | ... | ... | ... 6.9  |
| 5    | 1¼   | Cap XX Ld◆     | 1¼   | ... | ... | ... -2.7 |
| 380  | 279  | Castings       | 377  | ... | ... | ... 18.2 |
| 5    | 3    | Chamberlin◆    | 3    | ... | ... | ... -0.2 |
| 36   | 14   | Checki◆        | 24½  | ... | ... | ... -2.9 |
| 560  | 391  | Cohort◆        | 491  | +   | 11  | ... 43.6 |
| 400  | 190  | Crestchik Plc◆ | 399  | ... | ... | ...      |



Equity prices Business

| 12 month |       |                    | Company   | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E  |
|----------|-------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|------|------|
| High     | Low   |                    |           |           |     |      |      |
| 3½       | 1½    | N4 Pharma♦         |           | 1½        | ... | ...  | -2.0 |
| 93.95    | 73.32 | Novartis           | CHF 90.52 | + 0.14    | ... | ...  | 10.2 |
| 4        | 2½    | Omega Diags♦       |           | 2½        | + ¼ | ...  | -1.0 |
| 11       | 4½    | Ovoca Bio♦         |           | 7½        | ... | ...  | -2.2 |
| 562      | 297   | Oxford Biomedica   | 469 + 6½  | ...       | ... | ...  | 21.0 |
| 5        | 2     | Physiomics♦        |           | 2         | - ¼ | ...  | -7.6 |
| 5¼       | 3¼    | Proteome Scies♦    |           | 4½        | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 6808     | 5556  | Reckitt Benckiser♦ |           | ...       | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 63½      | 31½   | RUA Life Sciences♦ |           | 40 + 1    | ... | ...  | -3.8 |
| 223      | 70    | Sareum Hldgs♦      |           | 130 - 5   | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 1314½    | 984½  | Smith & Neph       | 1219½     | - 3½      | ... | ...  | 27.6 |
| 250      | 203   | Spire Hcare‡       |           | 229 - 1½  | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 35       | 7½    | Synairgen♦         |           | 8½        | ... | ...  | -0.3 |
| 70       | 42    | Tissue Regenix♦    |           | 51        | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 46½      | 15½   | Totally♦           |           | 19½       | ... | ...  | 30.7 |
| 420      | 295   | Tristel♦           |           | 410       | ... | ...  | 84.5 |
| 25       | 8½    | ValiRx♦            |           | 9¼        | ... | ...  | ...  |

Industrials

|       |       |                  |            |           |     |     |      |
|-------|-------|------------------|------------|-----------|-----|-----|------|
| 125½  | 54½   | Accsys Tech♦     |            | 75        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 4632  | 3330  | BASF             | 4028½      | + 19½     | ... | ... | 7.9  |
| 5715½ | 4064½ | Bayer DM50       | 4504½      | + 13½     | ... | ... | 52.6 |
| 195   | 46½   | Biome Tech♦      |            | 112½      | ... | ... | -3.7 |
| 3     | 1½    | Byotrol♦         |            | 1½        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 7     | 6¼    | Camb Gbl Timber♦ |            | 6¼        | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 79    | 50½   | Coats Grp        |            | 70 - 1¼   | ... | ... | 15.6 |
| 7482  | 5908  | Croda            | 6240 + 28  | ...       | ... | ... | 27.1 |
| 1120  | 575   | Cropper (James)♦ |            | 840       | ... | ... | 25.6 |
| 129   | 87½   | Elementis        |            | 113½ + ¼  | ... | ... | ...  |
| 127½  | 11    | Hardidex♦        |            | 12½       | ... | ... | -2.4 |
| 2373  | 1730  | Johnson Math     | 1792½      | - 12      | ... | ... | 22.6 |
| 1705  | 1242  | Mondi            | 1271 + 11½ | ...       | ... | ... | 9.7  |
| 100   | 77½   | Robinson♦        |            | 95        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 368½  | 241¼  | DS Smith         |            | 317½ + 1½ | ... | ... | 18.0 |
| 736¼  | 400½  | Swire Pacific    | 566¼       | - 1       | ... | ... | ...  |
| 19    | 6½    | Symph Environ♦   |            | 6½ + ¼    | ... | ... | ...  |
| 308½  | 88    | Synthomer        |            | 94 + ¼    | ... | ... | 1.9  |
| 2660½ | 2032  | Takeda Pharm     | 2633½      | + 40¼     | ... | ... | 14.7 |
| 7     | 2¼    | Velocys♦         |            | 2¼        | ... | ... | -2.9 |
| 1931  | 1504  | Victrix‡         |            | 1579 - 9  | ... | ... | 18.8 |
| 651   | 425   | Wynnstay Group♦  |            | 435 - 5   | ... | ... | 9.2  |
| 410   | 233   | Zotefoams        |            | 354 + 13  | ... | ... | ...  |

Leisure

|       |       |                          |           |           |     |     |      |
|-------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|------|
| 207½  | 51½   | 888 Hldgs                |           | 80 + 10   | ... | ... | 5.9  |
| 846   | 542   | Accesso Tech♦            |           | 760 - 6   | ... | ... | 20.0 |
| 680   | 370   | Best of the Best♦        |           | 565       | ... | ... | 6.3  |
| 995¼  | 501¾  | Carnival                 | 890¼      | + 19      | ... | ... | -1.4 |
| 130   | 108   | Celtic♦                  |           | 127½      | ... | ... | 12.6 |
| 25¼   | ¼     | Cineworld                |           | ¾         | ... | ... | ...  |
| 33¼   | 215½  | Domino's Pizza           | 281½      | + ¼       | ... | ... | 14.3 |
| 1587½ | 1075½ | Entain                   | 1305 - 1½ | ...       | ... | ... | 29.1 |
| 16725 | 7614  | Flutter Ent              | 15540     | - 250     | ... | ... | ...  |
| 32¼   | 22    | Gaming Realms♦           |           | 31½       | ... | ... | ...  |
| 290   | 290   | Heavytree♦               |           | 290       | ... | ... | 17.4 |
| 185   | 65    | Heavtree A♦              |           | 135 + 25  | ... | ... | 8.1  |
| 145   | 120   | Hermes Capital♦          |           | 120       | ... | ... | ...  |
| 5784  | 4193  | InterContinental Hotels♦ | 546       | + 54      | ... | ... | 51.0 |
| 1¼    | ¼     | Minoan Gr♦               |           | 1¼        | ... | ... | -8.3 |
| 214   | 102   | Mitch & Butlers          |           | 214 + 1¼  | ... | ... | ...  |
| 200½  | 92½   | On The Beach             |           | 101½ - ½  | ... | ... | -5.3 |
| 1600  | 1020  | PPHE Hotels              |           | 1075 - 15 | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 112   | 52½   | Rank Grp                 |           | 98 - 1    | ... | ... | 13.2 |
| 55¼   | 26½   | Restaurant Grp           |           | 44½ + ¾   | ... | ... | -8.4 |
| 50½   | 30½   | Rotala♦                  |           | 45½       | ... | ... | ...  |
| 25    | 15½   | Sportech♦                |           | 18½ - ¼   | ... | ... | ...  |
| 274½  | 184¼  | SSP                      |           | 267½ - 3½ | ... | ... | -5.2 |
| 95    | 1¼    | Tasty♦                   |           | 2¼        | ... | ... | 3.7  |
| 295   | 65    | Tintra♦                  |           | 87½ - 2½  | ... | ... | -1.5 |
| 704¼  | 290¼  | Tui                      | 538½      | + 4½      | ... | ... | -5.6 |
| 3½    | 1½    | Webis Holdings♦          |           | 1½        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 783½  | 389½  | Wetherspoon JD           |           | 746 + 12  | ... | ... | -6.9 |
| 3358  | 2285  | Whitbread‡               |           | 3358 + 17 | ... | ... | ...  |
| 1300  | 870   | Young & Co - A♦          |           | 1185 - 15 | ... | ... | ...  |
| 880   | 564   | Young & Co - N/V♦        |           | 880 - 6   | ... | ... | ...  |

Media

|      |      |                 |      |           |     |     |      |
|------|------|-----------------|------|-----------|-----|-----|------|
| ½    | ¾    | 7digital Gr♦    |      | ¾         | ... | ... | -5.7 |
| 88   | 52½  | Aeorema Comms♦  |      | 78½       | ... | ... | 21.7 |
| 48   | 20½  | Altitude Group♦ |      | 42 - ½    | ... | ... | ...  |
| 85½  | 68   | Arcontech Gr♦   |      | 68        | ... | ... | 9.4  |
| 315½ | 176½ | Ascential       |      | 238 + 3½  | ... | ... | ...  |
| 675  | 486½ | Auto Trader     |      | 617½ + 6½ | ... | ... | 30.4 |
| 492  | 366  | Bloomsbury Pub  | 430½ | + 10½     | ... | ... | 17.7 |

| 12 month |       |                     | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E  |
|----------|-------|---------------------|---------|-----------|-----|------|------|
| High     | Low   |                     |         |           |     |      |      |
| 8        | 3¼    | Bonhill Group♦      |         | 6 + ½     | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 172½     | 75    | Catalyst Media♦     |         | 140       | ... | ...  | ...  |
| ¼        | ¼     | Catena♦             |         | ¼         | ... | ...  | -0.2 |
| ...      | ...   | Daily Mail‡         |         | 270 - 2½  | ... | ...  | 10.3 |
| ...      | ...   | DCD Media♦‡         |         | 100 - 30  | ... | ...  | 5.0  |
| 63       | 43    | Ebiquity♦           |         | 48 + 1½   | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 1466     | 1076  | Euromoney In Inv    |         | 1460 + 2  | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 1972     | 722   | Future              | 729½    | + 12½     | ... | ...  | 12.5 |
| 1400     | 930   | GlobalData♦         |         | 1305      | ... | ...  | 64.6 |
| 120¼     | 50    | Hyve Corp           |         | 120½      | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 196      | 61½   | IG Design Grp♦      |         | 144 + ½   | ... | ...  | 21.1 |
| 729      | 501½  | Informa‡            |         | 708½ + 4  | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 90       | 55½   | ITV                 |         | 70¼       | ... | ...  | 7.6  |
| 10¼      | 4½    | Jaywing♦            |         | 4½        | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 8½       | 1½    | Live Company Gr♦    |         | 2½        | ... | ...  | -0.4 |
| ...      | ...   | Mediazest♦          |         | ...       | ... | ...  | -5.5 |
| 46½      | 26½   | Merit Gr♦           |         | 42½       | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 52½      | 3     | Mirada♦             |         | 3         | ... | ...  | -0.1 |
| 68½      | 42    | Mission Group♦      |         | 50        | ... | ...  | 8.4  |
| 280¼     | 168½  | Monysupermarket     |         | 261½ - ½  | ... | ...  | 26.6 |
| 1714¼    | 1194  | News Corp A         | 1519½   | + 17½     | ... | ...  | 24.7 |
| 1730¼    | 1219½ | News Corp B         | 1532½   | + 15½     | ... | ...  | 25.0 |
| 1146     | 755   | Next 15 Comms♦      |         | 799 - 25  | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 995½     | 734½  | Pearson             | 818½    | + ¼       | ... | ...  | 39.1 |
| 107      | 70½   | Photo-Me            |         | 107 + 5   | ... | ...  | 18.6 |
| 4¼       | 2     | Primorus Inv♦       |         | 2¼        | ... | ...  | 5.1  |
| 187½     | 108½  | Quarto              |         | 180 + 2½  | ... | ...  | 10.0 |
| 122½     | 67    | Reach               |         | 74 + 1¼   | ... | ...  | 82.2 |
| 1¼       | ¼     | REACT Gr♦           |         | 1¼        | ... | ...  | 18.2 |
| 2722     | 2081  | Relx‡               |         | 2574 - 7  | ... | ...  | 33.9 |
| 663      | 445½  | Rightmove           | 529¼    | + 3¼      | ... | ...  | 29.9 |
| 140      | 65    | SpaceandPeople♦     |         | 80        | ... | ...  | ...  |
| 315      | 245   | STV Group           |         | 249 - 1   | ... | ...  | 6.0  |
| 310      | 122½  | System1 Group♦      |         | 180       | ... | ...  | 8.6  |
| 2964¼    | 2249½ | 21st Cent Fox Inc A | 2627½   | + 33      | ... | ...  | 14.4 |
| 2744¼    | 2122½ | 21st Cent Fox Inc B | 2453¼   | + 29      | ... | ...  | 13.4 |
| ...      | ...   | Vela Tech♦          |         | ...       | ... | ...  | 6.0  |
| 356      | 222   | Wilmington          |         | 272 - 8   | ... | ...  | 17.3 |
| 1051½    | 725½  | WPP                 |         | 880½ + 7½ | ... | ...  | 16.7 |
| 116½     | 77½   | Zinc Media♦         |         | 94½       | ... | ...  | -5.9 |

Natural resources

|        |       |                     |       |           |     |     |      |
|--------|-------|---------------------|-------|-----------|-----|-----|------|
| 1      | ¼     | ADM Energy♦         |       | ¼         | ... | ... | ...  |
| ½      | ...   | Advance Energy♦‡    |       | ½         | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 33½    | 14½   | AFC Energy♦         |       | 14½ - ¼   | ... | ... | ...  |
| ...    | ...   | Afentra PLC         |       | ...       | ... | ... | ...  |
| ½      | ...   | Alba Mineral Res♦   |       | ½         | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| ¼      | ¼     | Alien Metals♦       |       | ¾         | ... | ... | ...  |
| 89½    | 63½   | Alumina             | 75½   | - 1½      | ... | ... | 15.7 |
| 1¼     | ¼     | Aminex              |       | 1         | ... | ... | -6.1 |
| 1¼     | ¼     | Amur Mins Corp♦‡    |       | ¼         | ... | ... | -5.8 |
| 70240¼ | 4685½ | Anglo Amer Plat     | 4685½ | - 68½     | ... | ... | 3.3  |
| 4017½  | 2223½ | Anglo American      | 2454½ | + 40      | ... | ... | 4.8  |
| 121    | 64    | Anglo Asian Mng♦    |       | 103 + 4½  | ... | ... | 8.9  |
| 1805   | 991½  | Antofagasta         | 1446  | + 4½      | ... | ... | 14.9 |
| 4¼     | 2¼    | Arc Minerals♦       |       | 3½        | ... | ... | 2.4  |
| 3½     | 2½    | Ariana Res♦         |       | 2½ - ¼    | ... | ... | 3.0  |
| ¼      | ¼     | Arkle Resources♦    |       | ¾         | ... | ... | -1.2 |
| 3¼     | 1¼    | Armadae Cap♦        |       | 1¼        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 2      | ¼     | Asiamet Rsres♦      |       | 1½        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 402½   | 188   | Atalaya Mine♦       |       | 325 + 1   | ... | ... | 4.1  |
| ¼      | ...   | Baron Oil♦          |       | ...       | ... | ... | ...  |
| 6      | 1½    | Beowulf Mining♦     |       | 1¼        | ... | ... | -7.6 |
| ¼      | ...   | Bezzant Res♦        |       | ...       | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 2855   | 2034  | BHP Group           | 2346  | + 8       | ... | ... | 10.2 |
| 5½     | 1½    | Border & Stln Pet♦  |       | 2¼        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 21½    | 13½   | Bougainville        |       | 19 - ¾    | ... | ... | ...  |
| 4¼     | 1     | BowlEven♦           |       | 1         | ... | ... | -1.3 |
| 567½   | 363½  | BP‡                 |       | 471¼ - 1½ | ... | ... | 17.1 |
| 16¼    | 8½    | Cadence Min♦        |       | 8½        | ... | ... | 0.8  |
| 2½     | 1½    | Cadogan Petrol      |       | 1½        | ... | ... | 23.6 |
| 1350   | 825   | Caledonia Mining♦   |       | 1060 + 10 | ... | ... | 10.3 |
| 555¼   | 192½  | Capricorn Energy    |       | 198½ + ¼  | ... | ... | 1.5  |
| 8½     | 2½    | Caspian Sunrise♦    |       | 5¼        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 125½   | 74½   | Centamin‡           |       | 99 - ¼    | ... | ... | 15.3 |
| 292½   | 185½  | Cent Asia Metals♦   |       | 193 - 1   | ... | ... | 5.6  |
| 15¼    | 7½    | Chaarat Gold♦       |       | 11        | ... | ... | ...  |
| 23     | 13½   | Chariot Oil & Gas♦  |       | 14¼       | ... | ... | ...  |
| 6      | 1½    | China Nonferr Gold♦ |       | 1¼        | ... | ... | ...  |
| ¼      | ...   | Clontarf Energy♦    |       | ...       | ... | ... | -1.9 |

| 12 month |       |                       | Company | Price<br>(p) | +/-  | Yld% | P/E  |
|----------|-------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|------|------|------|
| High     | Low   |                       |         |              |      |      |      |
| 34½      | 15¼   | Condor Gold♦          |         | 32           | +    | 1¼   | ...  |
| 1½       | ¼     | Corcel♦               |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -0.3 |
| 10004½   | 94¼   | DRD Gold              |         | 94¼          | +    | ¾    | ...  |
| 1¼       | ¼     | ECR Minerals♦         |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -2.1 |
| 19       | 4¼    | Edenville Energy♦     |         | 7½           | +    | ¼    | ...  |
| 1½       | ¾     | Empyrean Energy♦      |         | ¾            | ...  | ...  | -5.7 |
| 2184     | 1461  | Endeavour             | 2096    |              | ...  | ...  | 31.2 |
| 31½      | 14½   | EnQuest               |         | 15¼          | ...  | ...  | 0.9  |
| 7½       | 2¼    | Eurasia Mining♦       |         | 3½           | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| 3        | ¼     | Europa Oil&Gas♦       |         | 1½           | ...  | ...  | 13.6 |
| 193½     | 92¼   | Ferrexpo              |         | 95½          | -    | 1¼   | ...  |
| 968      | 644   | Fresnillo             | 682½    |              | + 1¼ | ...  | 16.1 |
| ...      | ...   | G3 Exploration#       |         | 28           | ...  | ...  | -2.6 |
| 39       | 17½   | Galantas Gold♦        |         | 17½          | ...  | ...  | -2.9 |
| 7¼       | 2¼    | GCM Resources♦        |         | 4            | +    | 1    | ...  |
| 54       | 21¼   | Gem Diamonds          |         | 21¼          | -    | ¼    | ...  |
| 28½      | 12½   | Getech♦               |         | 12½          | -    | ¾    | ...  |
| 578      | 400   | Glencore              | 431¼    |              | + 1¼ | ...  | 15.7 |
| ½        | ¼     | Global Petrol♦        |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -2.0 |
| 1315½    | 1266½ | Gold Fields           | 1266½   |              | - 8¼ | ...  | 19.5 |
| 12½      | 7½    | Goldplat♦             |         | 7½           | ...  | ...  | 5.6  |
| 8½       | 2½    | Goldstone Res♦        |         | 3½           | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| 13¼      | 6½    | Greatlid Gl♦          |         | 7½           | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| 96½      | 70    | Griffin Mining♦       |         | 83           | -    | 2½   | ...  |
| 310      | 129¼  | Gulf Keystone         |         | 140          | -    | 3½   | ...  |
| 25½      | 5½    | Harland & Wolff Gr♦   |         | 13¼          | ...  | ...  | 1.1  |
| 112½     | 51½   | Hochschild            |         | 80½          | -    | ¾    | ...  |
| 168      | 85    | Horizonte Minrils♦    |         | 134          | -    | ½    | ...  |
| 356½     | 187½  | Hunting PLC           |         | 220          | -    | 4½   | ...  |
| 106½     | 14½   | IGas Energy♦          |         | 15½          | ...  | ...  | -0.8 |
| ¾        | ...   | Independ Res♦         |         | ...          | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| 317      | 195   | Indus Gas♦            |         | 195          | ...  | ...  | 20.2 |
| ½        | ¼     | Ironveld♦             |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -4.7 |
| 301¼     | 67    | ITM Power♦            |         | 71¼          | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| 15¼      | 7     | Jubilee Metals♦       |         | 7¼           | +    | ½    | ...  |
| 2½       | 1¼    | Karel Diamd Res♦      |         | 2¼           | ...  | ...  | -9.3 |
| 1        | ¾     | KEFI Gold and Copper♦ |         | ¾            | ...  | ...  | -2.6 |
| 493      | 380½  | Kenmare Res           |         | 443½         | -    | 3    | ...  |
| 27½      | 5¼    | Lamprell#             |         | 8¼           | ...  | ...  | -0.7 |
| 23¼      | 10¼   | Landore Res♦          |         | 11¼          | +    | ¾    | ...  |
| ½        | ¼     | Lansdowne O&G♦        |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -3.7 |
| 16       | 12½   | Leeds Group♦          |         | 12½          | ...  | ...  | -2.0 |
| 8¼       | 1¼    | Lexington Gold♦       |         | 7½           | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| 21½      | 3¼    | MC Mining♦            |         | 8¼           | -    | ¼    | ...  |
| 2¼       | ¾     | Metals Explorn♦       |         | 1½           | ...  | ...  | 2.7  |
| ½        | ¼     | Nostra Terra♦         |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -1.0 |
| 26½      | ½     | Nostrum O&G#          |         | 9¼           | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| ...      | ...   | Oil Search            |         | 218¼         | -    | 5½   | ...  |
| ¼        | ¼     | Oilex♦#               |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -3.7 |
| ¾        | ...   | Oriole Resources♦     |         | ¼            | ...  | ...  | -1.9 |
| ¾        | ½     | Ormonde Mining♦#      |         | ¾            | ...  | ...  | -3.1 |
| 17½      | 3¼    | Orosur Mining♦        |         | 3¼           | ...  | ...  | -5.5 |
| 21½      | 12¼   | Pan African Res♦      |         | 13¼          | -    | ¼    | ...  |
| 140¼     | 15¼   | Pantheon Res♦         |         | 17¼          | +    | ¾    | ...  |
| 79       | 19½   | Parkmead Grp♦         |         | 19½          | -    | 1¼   | ...  |
| ¾        | ¾     | Pathfinder Mins♦      |         | ¾            | ...  | ...  | -3.5 |
| 120      | 64¼   | Petra Diamonds        |         | 69           | ...  | ...  | 2.3  |
| 2¼       | 1¼    | Petrel Resources♦     |         | 1¼           | ...  | ...  | -6.6 |
| 7        | 1¼    | Petro Matad♦          |         | 4¼           | -    | ¼    | ...  |
| 146½     | 46    | Petrofac              |         | 69¼          | -    | ¾    | ...  |
| 1½       | ...   | Petronet Res♦         |         | ...          | ...  | ...  | -1.8 |
| 1¼       | ¾     | Petropalovysk#        |         | 1¼           | -    | ¼    | ...  |
| 7½       | 4¼    | Phoenix Global♦       |         | 6½           | +    | ¼    | ...  |
| 4½       | 1¼    | Plexus Holdings♦      |         | 3¼           | ...  | ...  | -0.7 |
| 350      | 168   | Polymetal Intl        |         | 197          | +    | 5    | ...  |
| 698      | 499   | Porvair#              |         | 658          | +    | 8    | ...  |
| 19¼      | 3¼    | Prosperex Energy♦     |         | 8            | +    | ¼    | ...  |
| 14¼      | 8¼    | Proton Motor Power S♦ |         | 10           | ...  | ...  | -1.8 |
| 4        | 1¼    | Providence Res♦       |         | 3¼           | ...  | ...  | 29.0 |
| 2¼       | 1     | Quadrise Fuels Intl♦  |         | 1½           | -    | ¼    | ...  |
| 27¼      | 2     | Rambler Met&Min♦#     |         | 5¼           | ...  | ...  | 0.1  |
| ¾        | ¾     | Reabold Resources♦    |         | ¾            | ...  | ...  | -2.6 |
| ¾        | ¾     | Red Rock Res♦         |         | ¾            | ...  | ...  | 0.2  |
| 6725½    | 4596½ | Rio Tinto Ltd         |         | 5977½        | -    | 13¼  | ...  |
| 6377     | 4486  | Rio Tinto             |         | 5102         | + 47 | ...  | 5.3  |
| 41¼      | 19¼   | San Leon Energy♦      |         | 26½          | ...  | ...  | 9.9  |
| ½        | ¼     | Scirocco Energy♦      |         | ¾            | ...  | ...  | ...  |
| 47       | 22½   | Serabi Gold♦          |         | 26¼          | ...  | ...  | 3.6  |



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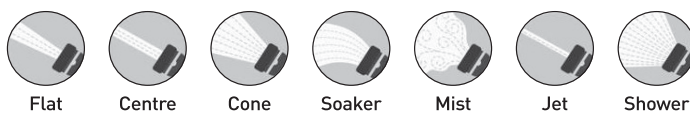
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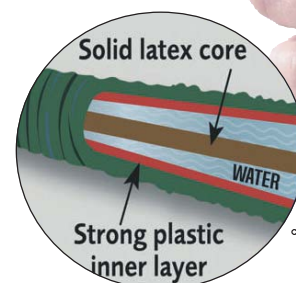
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**Labour minister under  
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## Obituaries

# Astrud Gilberto

Brazilian bossa nova singer whose signature track, *The Girl from Ipanema*, unexpectedly propelled her to international fame

Astrud Gilberto did not come from Ipanema and it was never intended that she should sing the song with which she became synonymous.

The “accident” that changed her life happened one day in March 1963 in a New York studio, where her husband João Gilberto was recording an album with the American jazz saxophonist Stan Getz.

The record was destined to become one of the biggest-selling jazz albums of all time and turned the world on to the sound of the bossa nova rhythms of Brazil. Astrud had never sung on a record before and was merely there to support her husband.

One of the songs they planned to record was *Garota de Ipanema*. It had been written by the Brazilian pianist Antônio Carlos Jobim with lyrics in Portuguese by the singer Vinícius de Moraes about a beautiful teenage girl, called Heloísa Pinheiro, whom the two men had admired passing by as they drank at the Veloso Bar on Rio de Janeiro's Ipanema beach.

The lyrics were translated into English by Norman Gimbel, who came up with the song's unforgettable opening lines: “Tall and tan and young and lovely/ The girl from Ipanema goes walking/ And when she passes, each one she passes goes, ‘ahhh’.”

When the album's producer, Creed Taylor, decided that they should record the song with its English lyrics, he immediately realised he had a problem. João Gilberto spoke no English and neither did any of the other professionals in the studio.

“Astrud was in the control room and Creed said he wanted to get the song done right away and looked around the room,” recalled Phil Ramone, who engineered the session. “Astrud volunteered, saying she could sing in English. Creed said, ‘Great.’ She wasn't a professional singer, but she was the only victim sitting there that night.”

She took the lyric sheet with trembling hands and in what she called “a little bit of fate” proceeded to sing in a dreamily romantic and sensual voice that fitted the song like a silk glove. Taylor later said he knew *The Girl from Ipanema* was going to be a smash “from the moment Astrud came in with her little voice and sang with that accent”. Yet when the record was released as a single in 1964, her name did not even appear in the credits, although that changed when *The Girl from Ipanema* became an international hit, won a Grammy award for record of the year and earned Astrud a nomination for best female vocal performance.

The song was also used as the opening track on the 1964 album *Getz/Gilberto* and she sang a second song on the record, *Corcovado* (*Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars*). The album went on to become a million-seller and spent almost two years in the American charts. “It was Astrud Gilberto who made the album a smash hit,” Bryan McCann, professor of Brazilian history at Georgetown University wrote in his 2018 book *Getz/Gilberto*. “Astrud provided the ineffable allure that made the album irresistible.”

The men around her were more concerned with arguing about who should take the plaudits for “discovering” her. Taylor, her husband and Jobim all



Gilberto recorded the track because her husband couldn't sing in English. It won the Grammy for record of the year in 1965

claimed it had been their idea to get her to sing. So did Getz. “She was just a housewife and I put her on that record because I wanted *The Girl from Ipanema* sung in English, which João couldn't do. That was a lucky break for her,” he claimed with more than a whiff of condescension.

The remark rankled the singer. “The funny thing is that after my success, stories abound as to Stan Getz or Creed Taylor having ‘discovered me’, when in fact, nothing is further from the truth,” she said. “I guess it made them look important to have been the one that had the ‘wisdom’ to recognise potential in my singing. I suppose I should feel flattered by the importance that they lend to this, but I can't help but feel annoyed that they resorted to lying.”

Every bit as galling was that she went unpaid for her definitive version of what is said to be the second-most recorded song in popular music behind the Beatles' *Yesterday*. Frank Sinatra, Amy Winehouse and Madonna are among the hundreds of singers to record *The Girl from Ipanema*, which has also featured in numerous films and television programmes, including *The Simpsons* and *The Sopranos*.

In the 2003 book *Bossa Nova: The Story of the Brazilian Music That Seduced the World*, the author Ruy Castro revealed that João Gilberto got \$23,000 for his work on the album while Getz pocketed a sum estimated to be not far short of \$1 million, with which he bought himself a 23-room mansion in Irvington, New York. Astrud earned only the musicians' union scale rate for a night of session work — a paltry \$120

— and there is some doubt as to whether even that was ever actually paid. The music industry was full of “wolves posing as sheep”, she claimed.

By the time *The Girl from Ipanema* became a hit, she had also separated from her husband who was having an affair with a young student, later to find fame as the singer Miúcha.

Astrud toured America with Getz and his band but it was a difficult time. “Besides being in the midst of a separation and dealing with the responsibilities of being a single mother and a brand new, demanding career, I was also coping with being on my own for the first time in my life, in a foreign country, travelling with a child, having

## Her dreamily romantic and sensual voice fitted the song like a silk glove

financial difficulties and totally naive,” she said. Additionally, she suffered from chronic stage fright and attended classes at the Stella Adler School of Acting in New York to combat her fear.

The press reported that she had an affair with Getz during the tour and she was subjected to the objectification that was the lot of too many female singers at the time. One reviewer wrote that she “evoked every straight man's daydream of an exotic, submissive woman in a bikini”. Yet she proved to be remarkably resilient and after leaving Getz's band she built a successful career. She made her solo debut in London in 1965 and over the next six years made eight

albums, earning another Grammy nomination. She also worked with such jazz luminaries as the pianist Gil Evans, the saxophonist Stanley Turrentine and Quincy Jones, although she insisted she was not a jazz singer. “I've been told that my phrasing is jazz-influenced but I prefer simplicity,” she said.

It was perhaps her reluctance to be pigeon-holed that led her in 1977 to record a disco version of the song that made her famous on an album titled *That Girl from Ipanema*. Replacing the lilting rhythm of the original with a banging dancefloor beat was undeniably crass, but it did not excuse the way she was mistreated once again by the record industry. “It was the second instance she would record the song, and never be paid for it,” said her son Marcelo Gilberto, who played in her band for 15 years and acted as her manager. “She believed in people and was trusting. They took advantage of her good nature, her trust and her desire to make music.”

She is survived by her son Marcelo, from her marriage to Gilberto, and by her younger son, Gregory Lasorsa, a guitarist in her band, from her second marriage to Nicholas Lasorsa. Both marriages ended in divorce.

Although she was an international star, oddly the one country where she went uncelebrated was her native Brazil. The reasons for the hostility towards her were never entirely clear but she made no secret of the fact that what she called the “harsh criticism and unwarranted sarcasm” of the Brazilian media left her “very hurt”. She was so upset that in 1965 she declared that she would never perform in the country of her birth again.

She kept her promise and declined to attend the opening ceremony of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro at which *The Girl from Ipanema* was played. After divorcing Gilberto, she lived for the rest of her life in the United States.

Having announced her retirement in 2002, she spent her time painting, studying philosophy and campaigning for animal rights, but was reported to lead a reclusive existence.

She was born Astrud Evangelina Weinert in 1940 in Salvador, Brazil, more than 750 miles north from Ipanema. Her Brazilian mother Evangelina Neves Lobo was a teacher who sang and played the violin and the Portuguese mandolin (known as the bandolim).

Her German-born father Fritz Wilhelm Weinert was a professor of languages at Bahia State University. She grew up fluent in German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese — and, of course, English.

In her teens she hung out with a group of Brazilian singers and songwriters that included Carlos Lyra, Roberto Menescal, Ronaldo Bôscoli and Nara Leão, who introduced her to João Gilberto. He was a decade older than her and they married when she was 19.

Although she sometimes sang at home while her husband was composing on the guitar, she expressed no ambition to sing professionally and admitted that at the time she was content to play the role of a devoted Brazilian housewife. By the time of their marriage her husband was already one of the brightest stars in Brazilian music.

The year before he had arranged what is widely acknowledged as the first bossa nova song, *Chega de Saudade* (or *No More Blues*), for the singer Elizeth Cardoso and swiftly followed with his own debut solo recording, which became a bossa nova landmark.

The popularity of his gentle rhythms spread to North America and he was making his debut along with other Brazilian artists at New York's Carnegie Hall in 1962 when he was introduced to Getz. The idea of fusing Brazilian bossa nova with American jazz was born and four months later the two men got together in the studio to record the *Getz/Gilberto* album.

The success of *The Girl from Ipanema* meant Astrud was immediately signed up to perform her hit song in the 1964 MGM film *Get Yourself a College Girl*, appearing alongside the Animals and the Dave Clark Five. Stand-out moments in her later career included singing with George Michael and a “virtual duet” with Frank Sinatra, when their two versions of *Fly Me to the Moon* were edited together for the soundtrack of the 2003 romcom *Down with Love*.

Even in her old age, in the public's imagination she remained the girl from Ipanema, the sound of her voice able in an instant to banish the cares of the world by conjuring visions of a land of sun-tanned, youthful bliss.

**Astrud Gilberto, the girl from Ipanema, was born on March 29, 1940. She died on June 5, 2023, aged 83**



# Lord Morris of Aberavon

Cautious and pragmatic Welsh secretary and attorney-general who served under three Labour PMs: Wilson, Callaghan and Blair

When John Morris arrived at Westminster as an ambitious young MP in 1959, Harold Macmillan was prime minister. By the time his parliamentary career ended on his death in 2023, he had seen 14 prime ministers come and go and served in the cabinets of three of them.

With the exception of a seven-week hiatus between standing down at the 2001 general election and his elevation to the House of Lords as Lord Morris of Aberavon, he sat in parliament for a continuous 64 years.

Along the way he broke numerous records. His 42 years as the member for Aberavon made him the longest-serving Welsh MP in parliamentary history.

When he was made attorney-general in Tony Blair's government in 1997 he was the only member of the New Labour administration with cabinet experience, having served as secretary of state for Wales between 1974 and 1979 under Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. He was the last surviving cabinet minister from Wilson's government, the longest-serving member of the privy council and, along with the former Ulster Unionist MP William Stratton Mills, was the last remaining link with the House of Commons of the 1950s.

His political longevity owed much to a cautious and pragmatic approach that came from his legal training and his parallel career as a barrister, QC and a crown court recorder. Firmly on the right wing of the Labour Party, he was appalled by its lurch to the left after the 1979 general election and the choice of Michael Foot as leader. When Tony Benn challenged Denis Healey for the party's deputy leadership in 1981, he abandoned his customary caution and went on the attack. As Benn recorded in his diaries, Morris told a meeting of Labour MPs that "Neither Michael [Foot] nor Wedgie [Benn] can win and if in a year from now it's worse, each one of us must consider our own position."

The last comment was a clear threat that he might leave Labour and join the newly formed SDP, and he was courted by Roy Jenkins as a possible recruit.

Yet dismayed as he was by the Benites and the infiltration of Trotskyist groups such as Militant, his roots in the Labour movement ran too deep for him to defect. Reminding those who attempted to woo him away that his grandfather had been chairman of the miner's lodge at a Rhondda colliery, he rebuffed their approaches, swallowed his doubts and remained loyal.

As a minister, his greatest achievement was arguably also his greatest

disaster. A lifelong believer in devolved powers for Wales, when he was appointed secretary of state in 1974 it fell to Morris to take the Welsh devolution bill through a hostile House of Commons. With the government having the slimmest majority and a number of Welsh Labour MPs, including Neil Kinnock, opposed to devolution and ready to rebel, he was reluctantly forced to give in to demands for a referendum. The concession was "a black day for our cause", he later wrote in his memoirs. "The Tories cackled their triumph. Our general standing in Wales was shattered."

The amended Wales Act 1978 was eventually passed by 292 votes to 264. Morris told the Commons that the Welsh Assembly which it proposed would be a "constitutional novelty", with primary legislative and tax raising powers remaining with Westminster, but the new devolved body would be able to pass secondary legislation in such areas as housing, health, education and planning.

When the referendum was held on St David's Day, March 1, 1979, after the turmoil of the "winter of discontent", Morris's plan was emphatically rejected by 80 per cent of Welsh voters.

As the results came in, Callaghan phoned him and commiserated. There were no recriminations but the prime minister told him it was his duty to appear on TV and make the best of a bad job. With no way of minimising the humiliation, Morris simply said: "If you see an elephant on your doorstep, you know it's there."

Callaghan later claimed that it was not the winter of discontent per se that ended his government's life at the polls two months later, but the adverse result of the referendums in Scotland and Wales. "Both were held on St David's Day, for John Morris had hoped the compliment would strike a patriotic chord in Welsh hearts," Callaghan wrote in his autobiography *Time and Chance*. "But the valleys were dead to the sound of our music."

Yet there was to be a happy refrain and, 18 years later as attorney-general, Morris sat on the cabinet committee that drafted the successful bill which led to a second referendum in 1997. In that one, the Welsh electorate voted in favour of establishing a Welsh Assembly by 50.3 per cent.

Despite the earlier catastrophic defeat, Morris came to be recognised as one of the fathers of devolution. "There was very little difference between the act of 1978 and the new one. It's the same piece of legislation,"



Morris was secretary of state for Wales for James Callaghan, right, and Harold Wilson before him. Left, receiving a knighthood at Buckingham Palace in 1999

he said. "For me it meant the culmination of nearly 50 years' work. My fingers were on the strings of that harp from beginning to end."

He remained active in the House of Lords to the end and is survived by his wife, Margaret (née Lewis), whom he met at an Eisteddfod in 1957. They married two years later and she worked for many years as his unpaid parliamentary secretary, bringing up their three daughters at a home in Chislehurst, Kent, when the House was sitting, while keeping a second residence in south Wales.

John Morris was born in 1931 in Capel Bangor, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire. His father David Morris, a farmer, died when he was six and his mother Olwen, a district nurse and midwife, remarried Evan Lewis, a neighbouring farmer. Across the two marriages, his mother had six sons, all of whom became farmers except John. He was, he suggested wryly, "the black sheep of the family".

He was a Welsh speaker and did not learn to read English until he was seven

at the local village school. He went on to Ardwyn Grammar School, Aberystwyth, which was 15 miles away from the remote family farm and meant he had to live with his grandparents during term time until he was 16.

He read law at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and completed postgraduate studies at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he joined the Labour club and debated at the Cambridge Union, often against his future Labour colleague Tam Dalyell, who at the time was chairman of the university's Conservative association.

After sitting his Bar exams, he signed on with the Royal Welch Fusiliers, doing his two years of national service in Germany, patrolling the frontier between East and West, and then back on home soil on a tank range in Pembrokeshire.

He was called to the Bar in 1954 and worked for various Welsh trade unions before joining the same chambers in the Temple as Michael Havers, the future Conservative attorney-general whom

Morris would spend much of the 1980s shadowing in the House of Commons.

His first five years in parliament were spent on the opposition benches but when Labour took power in 1964, Wilson appointed him a parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Ministry of Power. In a similar role in Transport, he took the "breathalyser bill" through parliament for Barbara Castle and headed an inquiry into the management of British Railways which was highly critical of the Beeching cuts.

After Labour lost the 1970 election, Morris returned to the Bar and took silk in 1973 before he was surprisingly appointed secretary of state for Wales after Labour's 1974 election victory. Most had expected the job to go to George Thomas, who had held the post in Wilson's previous administration.

His criticisms of Foot led to a short spell on the back benches before he was appointed shadow attorney-general in 1983 by Kinnock. He returned to high office as the government's chief legal adviser following Blair's landslide victory in 1997.

One of the stickiest issues he faced as attorney-general was the involvement of UK forces in Nato airstrikes against Serb forces. "I had to authorise air attacks in Kosovo on a daily basis without UN security council approval," he recalled. "We were breaking new ground. But when you have ethnic cleansing, then something has to be done." He likened what was taking

**Despite early failures, he was recognised as one of the fathers of devolution**

place under Slobodan Milosevic to "a burglar attacking your home and raping members of your family". In such circumstances, he insisted, there was "no time to go to the chief constable, or to the standing joint committee. You've got to do something, otherwise it's too late."

When he was replaced in a cabinet reshuffle in 1999, a Downing Street spokesman claimed that Morris had resigned to make way for a younger successor, although there were rumours that he had been pushed for raising rather more legal objections to Nato's bombing in private than he had voiced in public.

Prime ministers like their law officers to give them reasons why they can act rather than why they cannot. It was perhaps to Morris's relief that he was not still in office four years later and required to give advice over the even more controversial legality of the invasion of Iraq.

**Lord Morris of Aberavon KG, politician and former attorney-general, was born on November 5, 1931. He died on June 5, 2023, aged 91**

## Lives remembered

### Lord Carswell



**Tony Westhead writes:** The obituary of Lord Carswell (June 1) was excellent. As a young barrister he also played an important part in obtaining planning approval at a hotly contested planning inquiry before Mr Justice Murray. This enabled the acquisition of a former RAF airfield which is now the high-security Maghaberry Prison. It paved the way to closure for

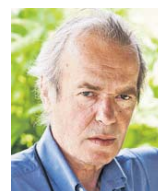
Belfast Prison on Crumlin Road, HMP Maze, the H-Blocks and HMP Armagh. His overturning of the conviction of Iain Hay Gordon was, in my opinion, a long-overdue rectification of a truly scandalous miscarriage of justice in Northern Ireland.

**Richard Ellis writes:** Throughout the 1980s, when I was warden of the National Trust's Murlough National Nature Reserve in Co Down, I used to take Robert Carswell and his wife, Romaine, birdwatching on Sundays. They were regulars on our programme of guided walks around this nature

reserve, close to the foot of the Mourne Mountains. Often in the winter months it was just them and one or two locals. Until that January in 1984 they used to drive themselves. On their next visit, shortly after the bomb incident, they turned up in a convoy of two armoured RUC Ford Sierras, the drivers of which remained in the cars while two armed detectives came on the walk. That first day the detectives were in suits and shiny shoes. The following week and thereafter they (always the same two) looked the part in waxed jackets and binoculars. I had many fascinating conversations with the Carswells. As we

discussed the etymology of the word "glaucous", having just seen a glaucous gull, Romaine gently reminded me that Carswell was also a classical scholar.

### Martin Amis



**Dennis Walder, emeritus professor of literature, Open University, writes:** At a time when his agent said Martin Amis (obituary, May 22) was refusing interviews,

he agreed to do one with me because a) it was for the Open University, and b) it was not about him or his work. *The Next Five Minutes* (1991) was about JG Ballard who, Amis said afterwards, had once been like a father to him, and had profoundly influenced his work.

Courteous, amusing and friendly, Amis made coffee afterwards in his "writing flat" in Notting Hill before departing to play tennis.

**@** If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can email it to [tributes@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:tributes@thetimes.co.uk)



# Emily Morgan

Broadcaster who led ITN's coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic

"It touched me and made me want to hug her, to tell her everything would be OK." Those were the words of Emily Morgan about a nurse she had interviewed on the day she first reported from inside a hospital Covid ward as the pandemic started to overwhelm the NHS.

Hundreds of people were dying every day. Medics were putting their own safety on the line. And so too did Morgan, who was ITV's health editor at the time and whose job it was, night after night, to tell a locked-down nation what was happening in the country and in the world around them.

The decision to enter the intensive care unit that day at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital was not one Morgan took lightly. Was it right to take up the medics' precious time? Would it be safe for her and her team? Would anyone want to talk to them about the volume of deaths they were seeing every day?

It did not take her long to get the answers to all those questions. From the moment she crossed into what was called the "red zone", the medics wanted to show her what they were dealing with. In the same level of PPE as the nurses and doctors, Morgan was as safe — or as at risk — as they were.

Both staff and patients were desperate to talk about those who were dying and those who had escaped death by the narrowest of margins.

Morgan used to say journalists open a window into the lives of others and, at this frightening time, that window had never been more important. Although her job was not to take sides but to tell a story in the most impartial way possible — it was what she had been doing throughout her career — that did not mean she couldn't report without a heavy dose of compassion.

When she later wrote that she wanted to "hug" that nurse, called Ami, it was because the young staff member had asthma and her family worried about her going into work every day. The nurse also had terrible eczema on her hands from constantly washing them.

Morgan had to fight back her tears all day but she did not let them flow until she was off air



Morgan began her career in radio

and driving back home to her family. "I let the tears roll down my face and on to my lap", she admitted as she made her way along the dark and empty roads of the south coast.

It was that compassion that marked her out for a rapid rise at ITN, which makes the network news for ITV.

Morgan began, as many great broadcasters do, in radio where she wrote and read news bulletins

**She did not let the tears flow until she was off air and driving back home**

tins for Independent Radio News, serving the UK's commercial radio stations. Her television career began as a producer, working in Westminster for ITV's political editor, Tom Bradby.

She would walk the corridors of the House of Commons, liaise with Downing Street and listen to long debates on the green benches. She had a flair for getting to the heart of the story in a fraction of the time it took others and would tell the correspondents she worked alongside what really mattered and which parts of a debate or party leader's conference speech to use. She

travelled with the prime ministers Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron to summits around the world and would often find herself in a flak jacket and helmet in Afghanistan when politicians went to meet British troops there.

So good was she at writing and broadcasting, she made what was always going to be an inevitable move from behind the cameras to reporting in front of them. She was the ITV News correspondent in Wales and the west of England before returning to Westminster as a political correspondent in her own right.

When she moved to cover the health brief, nothing could have prepared Morgan for what was going to hit the UK in the spring of 2020. And for her, just as it did for tens of thousands of NHS staff every day, the pandemic meant she would often kiss her two young children goodbye before dawn and not return until long after they had gone to bed in order to spend a day in an intensive care unit or meet grieving families.

She once said she would often feel a desire to "comfort the patients" or to "down tools and help the staff" but she knew that was not her job.

Emily Louise Mansel Morgan was born in Banbury, Oxfordshire, in 1977, the daughter of Arden, an agricultural consultant, and Kate, a secretary.

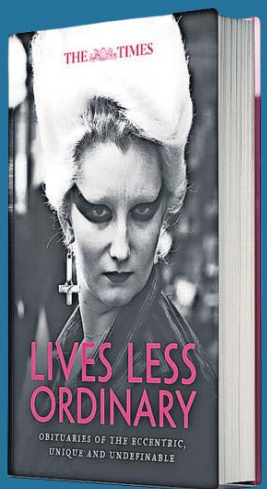
She attended Sibford School and studied theatre, culture and communication at Lancaster University before embarking on a postgraduate journalism course in Preston.

She married Robert Kinnaird, a technology consultant, in 2009 after meeting him through mutual friends in London in 2006. He survives her with their two daughters, Agatha and Etta, who are of school age.

Since her death, after her diagnosis with an aggressive form of lung cancer, many viewers, medics and patients have posted messages about how much they valued her reporting and her calm, clear and compassionate style on air.

**Emily Morgan, ITN health editor, was born on July 22, 1977. She died of lung cancer on May 26, 2023, aged 45**

## The latest collection of Times obituaries

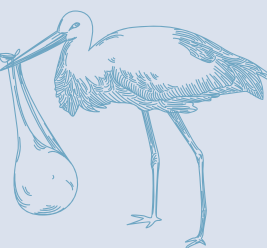


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## Births, Marriages and Deaths

**AND** there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:3-4 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

### Births

**MATHER** on 17th May 2023 to Elisabeth Joy (née Huckstep) and Andrew Philip, a daughter, Hannah Joy, sister to Sophie Grace. We're so thankful for God's gift of life and Hannah joining our family.

### Forthcoming Marriages

**MR O. P. A. BOTES AND MISS L. P. N. VAN STRYDONCK** The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Botes of London, and Livia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jean-Louis Van Strydonck of Antwerp.

### Deaths

**BAGSHAW** (Edith) Mary (née Sapte) died peacefully on 12th May 2023, aged 93. Beloved sister, mother and grandmother. Late of Hertfordshire, Hammersmith and Kent. Cremation to be followed by a thanksgiving service. All inquiries to Lewis Solomon Funeral Service, 19 Darnley Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0RZ. 01474 352261.

**BENTALL** Kate died on 18th May 2023, aged 87. Much-loved wife of the late Rowan, mother of Dominic, Sarah and Tom, stepmother to Edward, Alastair, Piers, Rowena and the late Auriol, and grandmother. Private funeral. Service of thanksgiving on Wednesday 14th June at 11.30am at St Mary's Church, Broughton.

**FABER** Jennifer Mary (née Hill) died peacefully on 4th June 2023, aged 94. Much-loved mother of Caroline, Bobby and Juliet, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Swithun's Church, Martyr Worthy SO21 1DY, on Wednesday 14th June at 2.30pm.

**GODDARD** Kenneth Sidney passed away peacefully on Saturday 20th May 2023, aged 84, after a long illness. Beloved husband of Carol, devoted father of Sarah, Claire and Helen, and wonderful uncle, great-uncle, godfather and friend to many. Private cremation to be followed by a memorial service at St Mary's Church, Sweffling, Suffolk, at 1.30pm on Saturday 17th June. Family flowers only but donations, if wished, may be made to a local charity that supports those in need: [www.IP17GNS.com](http://www.IP17GNS.com)

**HASTINGS** Thomas Alan OBE died peacefully on 25th May 2023, aged 93, at home. A beloved Dad and Grandpa. Funeral at Beckenham Crematorium on Thursday 8th June at 11am.

**JONES** David Henry, sprinter, hockey player and Olympic medallist who lived life to the full died in Mallorca, aged 83, on 1st June 2023. A much-loved husband to Liz and father of Nicky, proud grandfather of Ben and Sophie, and loving brother of Susan. His life will be celebrated by his family and friends at a memorial service in London to be announced later this year.

**KIRKWOOD** David Harvie, the Right Honourable Lord Kirkwood of Bearsden, passed away, aged 91, on 15th April in Sheffield, surrounded by family. Beloved husband of the late Rosalie, father of daughters Ruth, Anne and Lucy, brother to Stuart, Grandpa to Calum, Oliver, Max, Jacob, Zoë, Eve, David and Luca, and great-grandfather to Billy. The funeral was held on Thursday 11th May at St John's Church Ranmoor, Sheffield. Further details can be found through John Heath & Sons of Sheffield.

**LEAR** Harriet (née Debenham) on 4th June 2023, aged 83. Very much-loved wife to Nick, mother of five and Granny to eleven, died very suddenly as she would have wished. Please get in touch with [jolear@btinternet.com](mailto:jolear@btinternet.com) for details of the funeral.

**MCGRENRA** William died on 16th May 2023, aged 69. Beloved husband of Janet. Funeral at 12.30pm on 19th June at All Saints Church, Leamington Spa. Inquiries to HJ Dawson, 01926 427464.

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**MORGAN-JONES** Carolyn Raymonde (née Diacre) died on 21st May 2023. Much-loved mother to Emma, stepmother to Sophy, Granny-Boo to Hordern, Rory and Toby, sister to Piers and aunt to Alex and Nick. Funeral service at North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett, on Friday 16th June 2023 at noon. There will be memorial drinks in London at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for the Injured Jockeys Fund c/o Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service, Wagon Yard, Marlborough SN8 1LH. 01672 512444.

**PADFIELD** Christopher John died peacefully on 3rd June 2023, aged 73, at home in Cambridge. Much loved by Nicky, Eleanor, Michael and Rick, eight grandchildren and his wider family.

**STEPHENS** Barbara (née Moulson) on 29th May 2023, aged 99. Dearly loved wife of the late John, mother of Muff, Pippa and Tim. Adored Gangan of Benjie, Gus, Izzy and Rosanna. Funeral on Tuesday 4th July at 11.30am. If wished, donations in her memory to the Macular Society and Bergh Apton Parish Church. All inquiries to [youngsloddon@dignifyfunerals.co.uk](mailto:youngsloddon@dignifyfunerals.co.uk)

### Memorial Services

**WATSON** Dr Anthony Watson CBE at Lincoln's Inn Chapel, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3UT on 3rd July 2023 at 5pm.

### LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call  
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Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion



## Court Circular



### Buckingham Palace

6th June, 2023  
The King this evening attended a performance of George Frideric Handel's Coronation Anthems and "Dettingen Te Deum" given by the Royal Philharmonic Society and Wigmore Hall to celebrate the Coronation in St James's Roman Catholic Church, Spanish Place, 22 George Street, London W1, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Sir Kenneth Olisa), the Chairman of Royal Philharmonic Society and Director of Wigmore Hall (Mr John Gilhooly) and the Rector (Monsignor Philip Whitmore).

### Kensington Palace

6th June, 2023  
The Princess of Wales this morning visited Windsor Family Hub, Alma Road, Windsor, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr James Puxley).

Her Royal Highness, Joint Patron, the Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales, this afternoon received Mrs Alice Webb (Trustee) at Windsor Castle.

### St James's Palace

6th June, 2023  
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, London Youth, this morning visited Woodrow High House, Amersham, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Countess Howe). His Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of Bath, this afternoon chaired the Committee of the Vice Chancellor.

The Duchess of Edinburgh this morning visited Artventure Trust

Limited, St Peter's School, Horseshoe Lane East, Merrow, Guildford, and was received by Mrs Mary Cresswell (Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey). Her Royal Highness, Patron, Shooting Star Children's Hospices, later visited Christopher's, Old Portsmouth Road, Artington, Guildford, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Michael More-Molyneux).

The Duchess of Edinburgh this afternoon re-opened the newly renovated Haste Wing at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Egerton Road, Guildford, and was received by Mrs Joosje Hamilton (Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey).

### St James's Palace

6th June, 2023  
The Princess Royal, Royal Patron, Motor Neurone Disease Association, this afternoon attended a Care Forum at Boughton House, Geddington Road, Kettering, and was received by Mrs Morcea Walker (Deputy

Lieutenant of Northamptonshire). Her Royal Highness, Colonel, The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons), later received Major General Christopher Ghika (General Officer Commanding London District).

The Princess Royal, Master, the Corporation of Trinity House, this evening attended a Younger Brethren's Dinner at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3.

### Kensington Palace

6th June, 2023  
The Duke of Gloucester, Vice Royal Patron, the Almshouse Association, this morning received Mr Nicholas Phillips (Chief Executive Officer) and Ms Geraldine Harmon (Engagement Manager).

### St James's Palace

6th June, 2023  
The Duke of Kent, Colonel, Scots Guards, this morning received Colonel James Leask (Regimental Colonel).



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## MAY 2024

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 5  | Embark <b>Ambience</b> and depart London Tilbury                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Mon 6  | Rotterdam, Netherlands                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Tue 7  | <i>Relaxing at sea</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Wed 8  | Kirkwall, Orkney Isles<br>Kirkwall was formerly the site of an ancient Norse town, founded around 1,000 years ago. Explore this incredible archipelago and its astounding history, including neolithic sites dating back 5,000 years |
| Thu 9  | Stornoway, Isle of Lewis                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Fri 10 | Tobermory, Isle of Mull                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Sat 11 | Belfast, Northern Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Sun 12 | Ringaskiddy, Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mon 13 | St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Tue 14 | St. Peter Port, Guernsey                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Wed 15 | Le Havre (for Paris), France                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Thu 16 | Arrive in London Tilbury                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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## JUNE 2024

|        |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue 4  | Embark <b>Ambience</b> and depart London Tilbury                                                                                                                             |
| Wed 5  | Portsmouth, England                                                                                                                                                          |
| Thu 6  | <i>Relaxing at sea</i> ★D-Day Anniversary★<br>Mark this historic occasion as both <b>Ambience</b> and <b>Ambition</b> sail alongside each other on 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 |
| Fri 7  | Honfleur, France                                                                                                                                                             |
| Sat 8  | St. Peter Port, Guernsey                                                                                                                                                     |
| Sun 9  | St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mon 10 | Cobh (for Cork), Ireland                                                                                                                                                     |
| Tue 11 | Holyhead, Wales                                                                                                                                                              |
| Thu 13 | Tobermory, Isle of Mull                                                                                                                                                      |
| Fri 14 | Stornoway, Isle of Lewis                                                                                                                                                     |
| Sat 15 | Kirkwall, Orkney Isles                                                                                                                                                       |
| Mon 17 | Arrive in London Tilbury                                                                                                                                                     |

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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## JUNE 2024

Sun 30 Embark **Ambience** and depart London Tilbury

## JULY 2024

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue 2  | Kirkwall, Orkney Isles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Wed 3  | Stornoway, Isle of Lewis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Thu 4  | Portree, Isle of Skye                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Fri 5  | Tobermory, Isle of Mull                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Sat 6  | Belfast, Northern Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Mon 8  | Galway, Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Tue 9  | Foynes, Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wed 10 | Cobh (for Cork), Ireland<br>Cork is both a bustling city and a coastal gem. Take a stroll down its colourful streets where traditional Irish music can often be heard, or visit some of the many attractions such as Blarney Castle, St. Finn Barre's Cathedral and the English Market |
| Thu 11 | St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Fri 12 | St. Peter Port, Guernsey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Sat 13 | Portsmouth, England                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Sun 14 | Arrive in London Tilbury                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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**Today** A mostly dry day with long sunny spells and a little drizzle possible in the north. Max 24C (75F), min 6C (43F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy  
du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain,  
sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder  
\*=previous day \*\*=data not available

|                   | Temp C           | Rain mm                 | Sun hr <sup>®</sup> |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|                   | midday yesterday | 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday |                     |
| Aberdeen          | 12               | C                       | ** 0.0              |
| Aberporth         | 15               | PC                      | 0.0 **              |
| Anglesey          | 15               | S                       | 0.0 **              |
| Aviemore          | 15               | PC                      | 0.0 3.7             |
| Barnstaple        | 15               | PC                      | 0.0 **              |
| Bedford           | 13               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Belfast           | 17               | B                       | 0.0 **              |
| Birmingham        | 12               | **                      | 0.0 **              |
| Bournemouth       | 17               | PC                      | 0.0 1.9             |
| Bridlington       | 12               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Bristol           | 13               | C                       | 0.0 0.2             |
| Camborne          | 16               | PC                      | 0.0 **              |
| Cardiff           | 14               | C                       | 0.0 3.5             |
| Edinburgh         | 13               | C                       | 0.0 3.3             |
| Eskdalemuir       | 13               | C                       | 0.0 4.4             |
| Glasgow           | 13               | C                       | 0.0 3.5             |
| Hereford          | 12               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Herstmonceux      | 17               | S                       | 0.0 1.0             |
| Ipswich           | 13               | C                       | 0.0 0.0             |
| Isle of Man       | 13               | C                       | 0.0 2.5             |
| Isle of Wight     | 17               | PC                      | 0.0 **              |
| Jersey            | 17               | PC                      | 0.0 1.8             |
| Keswick           | 16               | S                       | 0.0 **              |
| Kinloss           | 13               | C                       | 0.0 1.2             |
| Leeds             | 11               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Lerwick           | 11               | C                       | 0.0 0.1             |
| Leuchars          | 12               | C                       | 0.0 0.0             |
| Lincoln           | 12               | C                       | 0.0 0.1             |
| Liverpool         | 14               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| London            | 14               | C                       | 0.0 5.2             |
| Lyneham           | 12               | C                       | 0.0 4.8             |
| Manchester        | 14               | C                       | 0.0 2.0             |
| Margate           | 14               | C                       | 0.0 8.1             |
| Milford Haven     | 16               | PC                      | 0.0 **              |
| Newcastle         | 12               | C                       | 0.2 **              |
| Nottingham        | 12               | D                       | 0.0 3.8             |
| Orkney            | 12               | C                       | 0.0 0.5             |
| Oxford            | 13               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Plymouth          | 16               | S                       | 0.0 **              |
| Portland          | 16               | S                       | 0.0 **              |
| Scilly, St Mary's | 14               | PC                      | 0.0 **              |
| Shoreham          | 17               | C                       | 0.0 5.5             |
| Shrewsbury        | 12               | D                       | 0.0 1.4             |
| Snowdonia         | 15               | S                       | 0.0 **              |
| Southend          | 15               | S                       | 0.0 **              |
| South Uist        | 14               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Stornoway         | 14               | PC                      | 0.0 1.3             |
| Tiree             | 14               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Whitehaven        | 12               | C                       | 0.0 0.9             |
| Wick              | 11               | C                       | 0.0 **              |
| Yeovilton         | 15               | PC                      | 0.0 2.2             |

Five days ahead

A largely dry couple of days with sunny spells, then turning unsettled with scattered showers

**Tomorrow**  
Remaining largely dry with the best of the sunshine across southeast Britain through the afternoon. Patchy cloud and perhaps some drizzle in Scotland.  
Max 20C, min 6C

**Friday**  
Patchy cloud and a few showers moving into southwest Britain and Ireland through the afternoon. Dry elsewhere with sunny spells.  
Max 23C, min 5C

**Saturday**  
Bright spells and scattered showers moving across much of the British Isles through the day, perhaps turning thundery in places.  
Max 23C, min 9C

**Sunday**  
Another day of sunny intervals and scattered showers, heaviest across central Britain and perhaps turning thundery through the afternoon.  
Max 24C, min 11C

**Monday**  
Sunny spells and scattered showers for much of Britain and Ireland, heaviest and perhaps thundery in southern Ireland.  
Max 23C, min 11C

**Wind speed**  
34 (mph)

**Sea state**  
Calm  
Slight  
Moderate  
Rough

**Temperature**  
28 (degrees C)

**Flood alerts and warnings**  
At 17:00 on Tuesday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.  
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

**General situation:** Mainly dry with sunny spells and patchy cloud perhaps producing some drizzle at times.  
**Cen Highland, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Lake Distict, IoM:** A little patchy cloud clearing through the morning to leave an afternoon of sunny spells, perhaps turning hazy at times. Light northeasterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 7C (45F).  
**Cen N Eng, NW Eng, W Mids, Wales, Cen S Eng, SW Eng, Channel Is:** A dry day with cloud clearing through the morning to leave an afternoon of long spells of sunshine. Light to moderate easterly winds, perhaps fresh along the coast in the southwest. Maximum 24C (75F), minimum 6C (43F).  
**London, E Anglia, SE Eng, E Mids, E Eng:** Dry with thick cloud through the morning and sunny spells by the afternoon. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 23C (73F), minimum 7C (45F).  
**Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** Early mist and fog clearing to leave a dry day with lengthy spells of sunshine in the east and a little patchy cloud in the west through the afternoon. Light to moderate easterly winds. Maximum 23C (73F), minimum 8C (46F).  
**Edinburgh and Dundee, Moray Firth, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, Borders, N Isles, Aberdeen, NE Eng:** Patchy mist clearing through early morning to leave a cloudy day with the odd patch of drizzle possible where cloud is thickest. Light and variable winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 6C (43F).

**Tides**  
Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

|               |       | Ht   | Ht         |
|---------------|-------|------|------------|
| Today         |       |      |            |
| Aberdeen      | 04:05 | 4.1  | 16:49 4.1  |
| Avonmouth     | 10:21 | 12.6 | 22:41 12.6 |
| Belfast       | 01:43 | 3.5  | 14:23 3.3  |
| Cardiff       | 10:06 | 11.7 | 22:25 11.8 |
| Devonport     | 08:58 | 5.1  | 21:11 5.4  |
| Dover         | 01:38 | 6.5  | 14:05 6.5  |
| Dublin        | 02:03 | 4.1  | 14:51 3.8  |
| Falmouth      | 08:23 | 4.8  | 20:40 5.0  |
| Greenock      | 03:09 | 3.5  | 15:40 3.3  |
| Harwich       | 02:32 | 4.0  | 14:52 3.8  |
| Holyhead      | 01:00 | 5.6  | 13:32 5.3  |
| Hull          | 09:10 | 7.3  | 21:50 7.0  |
| Leith         | 05:25 | 5.4  | 18:01 5.4  |
| Liverpool     | 01:48 | 9.2  | 14:17 8.9  |
| London Bridge | 04:46 | 7.1  | 17:10 6.6  |
| Lowestoft     | ---   | --   | 12:27 2.5  |
| Milford Haven | 09:17 | 6.6  | 21:40 6.7  |
| Morecambe     | 01:58 | 9.2  | 14:28 8.9  |
| Newhaven      | 01:47 | 6.5  | 14:21 6.5  |
| Newquay       | 08:09 | 6.6  | 20:32 6.7  |
| Oban          | 08:37 | 3.5  | 21:04 3.7  |
| Penzance      | 07:41 | 5.2  | 20:07 5.4  |
| Portsmouth    | 02:02 | 4.7  | 14:45 4.6  |
| Shoreham      | 01:51 | 6.1  | 14:24 6.1  |
| Southampton   | 01:18 | 4.5  | 14:11 4.5  |
| Swansea       | 09:23 | 9.0  | 21:44 9.0  |
| Tees          | 06:30 | 5.3  | 19:11 5.2  |
| Weymouth      | 09:45 | 1.9  | 22:09 2.1  |

**Synoptic situation**  
High pressure will remain centred to the northwest of the British Isles, keeping conditions largely dry and settled throughout the day. A northeasterly flow will continue to bring thicker cloud into eastern Britain, with lengthy spells of sunshine in the west. The odd patch of light rain or drizzle may form where cloud is thickest in the north.

**Highs and lows**  
24hrs to 5pm yesterday  
Warmest: Castlederg, 23.0C  
Coldest: Bala, Gwynedd, 3.5C  
Wettest: Albemarle, Northumberland, 0.2mm  
Sunniest: Manston, Kent, 8.1hrs<sup>±</sup>

**Sun and moon**  
For Greenwich  
Sun rises: 04.44  
Sun sets: 21.12  
Moon rises: ---  
Moon sets: 07.38  
Third Quarter: June 10

**Hours of darkness**

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Aberdeen   | 22:28-03:45 |
| Belfast    | 22:25-04:19 |
| Birmingham | 21:56-04:16 |
| Cardiff    | 21:55-04:27 |
| Exeter     | 21:53-04:32 |
| Glasgow    | 22:27-04:04 |
| Liverpool  | 22:05-04:15 |
| London     | 21:43-04:14 |
| Manchester | 22:03-04:11 |
| Newcastle  | 22:10-03:59 |
| Norwich    | 21:44-04:02 |
| Penzance   | 21:58-04:43 |
| Sheffield  | 21:59-04:09 |

**Weather Eye**  
Paul Simons

“The highest temperature of the year so far” has caught the headlines over recent weeks, although it is not quite as dramatic as it seems. The UK’s highest daily temperatures have actually been unremarkable for the time of year and across the country temperatures have been largely subdued. Much of that can be blamed on bracing winds blowing in from the North Sea, which have also dragged in stubborn blankets of dreary, grey stratocumulus clouds, quite possibly one of the world’s most boring types of cloud. The east coast has been especially overcast and nippy, many places hardly seeing much sunshine and with temperatures 2C or more below average. But what has been remarkable over the past few weeks is that hardly a drop of rain has fallen in much of Britain.

Yet change is afoot, all thanks to a storm pushing up from the Canary Islands and Madeira off the northwest coast of Africa. This was named Oscar by Aemet, the Spanish weather agency, with forecasts of heavy rains, strong winds and high waves in the Canaries, Madeira and the Azores. The storm will push north and lose power but remnants will reach the southwest by Friday, introducing warmer and more humid air. Temperatures will rise across Britain and by the weekend could be nudging 28C or more in the south, and if the heat hangs on for at least three days it may be enough to qualify for the distinction of reaching heatwave status. It will feel muggy and sticky and that hot humid atmosphere may set off some vigorous showers and thunderstorms — and so, after weeks without a drop of rain for many places, there is the prospect of wetter weather, although not everywhere. And as the high pressure that has dominated the UK gradually drifts out towards Scandinavia, so the rest of the UK will slowly warm up, although the east coast remains plagued with nagging cooler winds sweeping off the North Sea.

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# Sport

## Australia go into battle a week early

**Mike Atherton**

Chief Cricket Correspondent



Ben Stokes did not even consider the question for a moment. “It will be the World Test Championship [WTC] next week to decide the best Test team in the world on English soil, and you are not involved. Does that hurt the pride at all?” Stokes was asked the day before the Ireland Test. “No,” he said, without blinking. As Australia and India battle it out at the Oval, Stokes and his teammates will be on the golf course.

England’s players have the Ashes on their minds, but that Stokes thought fit to swat away the question without consideration tells you something of the WTC’s struggle to capture the imagination. It also reflects on the nature of the cycle — by the time Stokes had taken over as captain, England’s chances of qualifying were non-existent.

Quite how far that indifference is reflected by the public at large is hard to say. This particular one-off final, the second of its kind after New Zealand’s inaugural win against India two years ago, is sandwiched between events that dwarf it in significance — the Indian Premier League and the Ashes. Scheduling prevents a series-long WTC final, but it is in the twists and turns over a lengthy period that Test cricket is seen at its best — as Australia and India so memorably demonstrated down under in 2020-21.

The Oval will still be heaving, of course, but whether that is because of the event is moot: any game involving India is likely to garner the level of support needed to fill the ground and this is another chance for the diaspora to watch their heroes in the flesh. WTC final or not, interest in a Test involving India will be high and there was a noticeable buzz on Tuesday around the Oval. The ECB is keen to encourage more neutral games here and you can see why.

Designed to reinvigorate the Test game, the WTC format has its challenges. In this cycle, for example, England played 22 Tests to Sri Lanka’s 12 (Ireland, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, all Test nations, do not play in it at all). That imbalance leads to a points allocation on a percentage-per-match basis. After the cycle, Australia are top of the table on 66.67 per cent; India second on 58.80. It takes some following.

Instead of encouraging teams to play Test cricket, the WTC promotes



Smith gets into a tangle with his helmet at the Oval yesterday. The Australia batsman will face India after a three-match stint in the County Championship at Sussex



minimal engagement with it. Rather like teenage students doing their homework to satisfy the teacher rather than for a love of learning, nations play the bare minimum to satisfy the ICC requirement, Test cricket being a loss-leader for many. As a result, this cycle incorporated only 18 Test series with more than two matches.

That said, Australia and India have been the outstanding Test teams across the cycle and a stellar cast will be on show. Both boast champions of the format who are coming towards the final stage of their careers: David Warner, Nathan Lyon and Usman Khawaja are the elder statesmen for Australia; Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Ravichandran Ashwin similarly for India.

For some, a showpiece final may not come around again. Others are expect-

ed to take on the mantle of greatness. Shubman Gill, India’s languid young opener, is among the brightest talents in the game, while Cameron Green shapes as the all-rounder Australia have longed for. Quite whether there will be a fruitful and varied Test programme in future to allow such talents to shine to their full extent is uncertain.

The neutrality of the venue will protect against any desire to skew conditions to home advantage — another of the unintended consequences of the WTC. Australia’s batsmen were undone in India on the kind of zinging turners that England would remember from their previous tour there. The Oval, staging a first-ever Test in June, will be very different. Yesterday, the pitch looked fresh.

India are on a barren run in ICC events, having not won one for a decade

since their Champions Trophy triumph in England in 2013, a puzzling record given their playing and financial resources. They arrived here in dribs and drabs post IPL and have been practising behind closed doors in Arundel. They are without Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah, both of whom played in a significant proportion of the cycle and who would be in a first-choice team.

Australia are at full strength except for Josh Hazlewood, not yet fully recovered from injury. Hazlewood has played precious little first-class cricket of late and there must be doubts about his ability to get through the five Ashes Tests unscathed, so Scott Boland, who replaces him for this match and who has a remarkable record in his short Test career, will be looking to make a case. Given the schedule, Australia will need depth to their pace attack, and

have already added Michael Neser to their squad.

Inevitably, Australia’s performance will be viewed through the prism of the Ashes. What kind of form is Warner in? Have the county stints for Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith got them ripe? How do Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc shape up after lengthy layoffs?

The question of who has had the better Ashes preparation is fascinating. Australia will arrive at Edgbaston for the first Test a week on Friday after a proper contest, match-ready and battle-hardened, but the proximity of the game to an Ashes series squeezed into seven weeks adds a physical challenge for their bowlers. England are doing it the relaxed way, as is their style under Brendon McCullum. Whether they will be distracted enough at Loch Lomond to catch up with the action is doubtful.

## Former UK and Masters champions among ten banned in fixing scandal

CONTINUED FROM BACK

been handed a five-year ban. An investigation by The Times in January revealed that one of the younger players involved in the scandal, 20-year-old Chang Bingyu, said he had been targeted with threats by Liang, who ordered him to deliberately lose a match in last September’s British Open.

The disciplinary commission’s judgment stated: “We find the conduct of

Liang [Wenbo] as particularly disgraceful. The pressure placed by him, a senior professional on a large number of Chinese players, many of them young and impressionable, the threatening behaviour he displayed towards Chang and his failure to cooperate with the WPBSA inquiry clearly warrant and justify a sanction of the highest order.”

Chang was banned for two years, with the other players, Chen Zifan, Zhang Jiankang, Bai Langning and

Zhao Jianbo, banned for periods up to five years and four months. Most of them admitted their involvement in fixing matches and betting on matches against snooker’s regulations.

Jason Ferguson, chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, said: “It has been heart-breaking to see some young, talented players fall foul of the WPBSA conduct regulations through pressure exerted by two senior players [Liang

and Li]. This behaviour has been recognised as wholly unacceptable by the imposition of two lifetime bans.

“This outcome must be taken as a lesson to those who think they can avoid detection. If any player is involved in fixing a snooker match, they will be caught and will face severe penalties.”

Liang was found to have fixed or been a party to fix five snooker matches between July 24 and September 28, 2022, and to have induced or facilitated players to fix nine matches between July 24 and December 13, 2022.

He also bet on matches in breach of the rules and “behaved in conduct that was corrupt by threatening another player” and making him delete his messages on his phone, and threatened another player to seek to persuade him

not to assist the WPBSA inquiry. Li was found to have fixed or was a party to fix five matches between July 24 and September 29, 2022, and induced or facilitated players to fix seven matches between July 24 and December 13, 2022, as well as betting on matches, and attempted to cover up his involvement in match-fixing.

The other players all accepted fixing matches except for Zhao Xintong, who accepted that he was a party to another player fixing two matches and that he had bet on matches.

Liang was banned last year by the WPBSA after he pleaded guilty to a “sustained assault” on a woman in Sheffield — he was caught on CCTV punching and kicking her, continuing even when a passer-by tried to intervene.



| Newbury                             |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Rob Wright                          |                        |
| 2.00 Mapmaker                       | 4.20 Eximious          |
| 2.35 There's No Limit               | 4.55 Lmay              |
| 3.10 Son                            | 5.25 Wonder Starelzaam |
| 3.45 Sergeant Tibbs                 | 5.55 Raintown          |
| (nap)                               |                        |
| Going: good to firm, firm in places |                        |
| Draw: no advantage                  |                        |
| Racing TV                           |                        |

## 2.00 Fillies' Stakes

| (2-Y-O: £4,320: 6f) (16 runners) |                      |                            |                 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 (14)                           | BETTIES BAY          | Georgia Nicholls 9-2       | J Bryan         |
| 2 (12)                           | CALIFORNIA STATE     | J Butler 9-2               | L Morris        |
| 3 (6)                            | 0 LE BROK CAFE       | 57 (T) Miss A Murphy 9-2   | T Hammer Hansen |
| 4 (2)                            | 3 MAPMAKER           | 8 Darryll Holland 9-2      | K Stott         |
| 5 (13)                           | 5 ROUBAY             | 11 D Loughnane 9-2         | R Dawson        |
| 6 (3)                            | 3 SHAW'S PHOENIX     | 21 B Millman 9-2           | R Coakley       |
| 7 (9)                            | 00 UNION JACKIE      | 18 J Chapple-Hyam 9-2      | R Tart          |
| 8 (5)                            | WIT'S END            | T Dascombe 9-2             | P-L Jamin (3)   |
| 9 (15)                           | WITHOUT FLAW         | A Watson 9-2               | K Shoemark      |
| 10 (8)                           | 3 CHERRY HILL        | 16 F Davis 9-0             | N Callan        |
| 11 (7)                           | 00 DAINTY LADY       | 21 T Dascombe 9-0          | L Keniry        |
| 12 (1)                           | 54 FOREVER A DIAMOND | 14 W Muir & C Grassick 9-0 | L Edmunds       |
| 13 (10)                          | KOJI                 | H & R Charlton 9-0         | James Doyle     |
| 14 (4)                           | LEGAL BEAT           | R Harris 9-0               | D Costello      |
| 15 (11)                          | 5 QUEUES LIKELY      | 16 J S Moore 9-0           | S M Levey       |
| 16 (16)                          | WHITELEY WAY         | R Teal 9-0                 | G Rooke         |

100-30 Mapmaker, 4-1 Union Jackie, 8-1 Without Flaw, Roubay, 10-1 Forever A Diamond, Shaws Phoenix, Wit's End, 12-1 Cherry Hill.  
**Rob Wright's choice:** Mapmaker showed plenty of ability when third at Redcar Dangers Roubay, Shaws Phoenix

## 2.35 Maiden Stakes

| (Div I: 2-Y-O: £5,400: 6f 110yd) (10) |                    |                         |             |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1 (9)                                 | BIGBERTIEBASSETT   | T Dascombe 9-7          | L Keniry    |
| 2 (4)                                 | D POINT M Botti    | 9-7                     | N Callan    |
| 3 (3)                                 | HURRICANE POWER    | P & O Cole 9-7          | K Stott     |
| 4 (7)                                 | JUANTOREMA         | A Balding 9-7           | J Bryan     |
| 5 (6)                                 | ROSALLION          | R Hannan 9-7            | S M Levey   |
| 6 (10)                                | SHORT CIRCUIT      | A Watson 9-7            | L Morris    |
| 7 (1)                                 | SPANISH BLAZE      | M Trengoon 9-7          | D Costello  |
| 8 (3)                                 | 3 THERE'S NO LIMIT | 12 Charlie Johnston 9-7 | James Doyle |
| 9 (5)                                 | CARMARTHEN         | Jack Channon 9-2        | K Shoemark  |
| 10 (2)                                | GOLDEN MYRRH       | R Beckett 9-2           | J Crowley   |

1-1 Golden Myrrh, 9-2 There's No Limit, 4-1 Point, Juantorema, 8-1 others.  
**Wright choice:** There's No Limit was not given a hard time at Pontefract Dangers Short Circuit, Bigbertiebasset

## 3.10 Maiden Stakes

| (Div II: 2-Y-O: £5,400: 6f 110yd) (10) |                  |                         |               |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 (9)                                  | AL KHAWANEJ      | RIVER M Trengoon 9-7    | J Crowley     |
| 2 (4)                                  | FIRST ENCOUNTER  | J Gallagher 9-7         | R Clutterbuck |
| 3 (6)                                  | HOT FUSS         | T Dascombe 9-7          | P-L Jamin (3) |
| 4 (8)                                  | PETER PIPER      | D Ivory 9-7             | C Fallon      |
| 5 (2)                                  | ROMAN EMPEROR    | J Ryan 9-7              | L Morris      |
| 6 (3)                                  | 4 SOLDIER'S GOLD | 13 H Palmer 9-7         | James Doyle   |
| 7 (7)                                  | 3 SON            | P R Hannan 9-7          | P Dobbs       |
| 8 (5)                                  | WILL CAMPBELL    | S Kirk 9-7              | L Keniry      |
| 9 (10)                                 | 5 DOUBLETALK     | 12 Charlie Johnston 9-2 | N Callan      |
| 10 (1)                                 | RUNAROUND SIOUX  | B Millman 9-2           | R Coakley     |

5-4 Son, 9-2 Soldier's Gold, 5-1 Hot Fuss, Doubletalk, 14-1 Al Khawanej River, 25-1 others.

**Wright choice:** Son steps up in distance after a one-paced third at Ascot Dangers Soldier's Gold, Hot Fuss

## 3.45 Handicap (£4,527: 6f) (8)

|       |                         |                             |            |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1 (2) | 6-410 VAPE              | 9 (P,D) J Flint 6-9-13      | W Carson   |
| 2 (7) | -5520 SERGEANT TIBBS    | 18 (CD) J Flint 5-9-13      | L Morris   |
| 3 (1) | 00/0- THE CRUISING LORD | 429 (D) R Brisland 7-9-11   | C Fallon   |
| 4 (5) | 142650 SATURNALIA       | 11 R Hughes 3-9-9           | G Rooke    |
| 5 (8) | 01-3 HYDRATION          | 23 H & R Charlton 3-9-8     | K Shoemark |
| 6 (3) | 30-00 LAND OF SUMMER    | 26 R Hannan 3-9-7           | P Dobbs    |
| 7 (4) | 3-344 CHAMPAGNE SARAH   | 20 M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-4 | K Stott    |
| 8 (6) | 406 TADJIF              | 19 (H) C Hills 3-9-3        | J Crowley  |

11-4 Hydration, 9-2 Saturnalia, 5-1 Tadjif, Sergeant Tibbs, 6-1 Champagne Sarah, 7-1 Vape, 16-1 The Cruising Lord, Land Of Summer.

**Wright choice:** Sergeant Tibbs is 5lb lower than when taking this last year Dangers Champagne Sarah, Hydration

## 4.20 Handicap (€6,281: 7f) (8)

# Yesterday's racing results

## Leicester

Going: good to firm

**2.00 (6f), 1. Hurt You Never** (Mia Nicholls, 8-11 fav); 2. Port Noir (6-1); 3. Landing Strip (50-1). 7 ran. NR: Fantasy Navigator. 4¼l, nk. Adrian Nicholls.

**2.30 (6f), 1. Bits And Bobs** (Oisín Murphy, 5-1); 2. Ethnal Road (100-30 fav); 3. Black Hole (16-1).

**A Thir**  
21, 1¼  
**4.35**  
2-1; 2; 2  
(7-1).  
**5.05**  
100-3;  
(9-1).  
**Place**

2-1 Eximious, 100-30 Ludmilla, 11-2 Prenup, 13-2 Discretion, 10-1 Havana By The Sea, Ellexis, 14-1 Sayifyouwill, Dynamite Katie.

**Wright choice:** Eximious returns to a more suitable grade after struggling in a group race Dangers Ludmilla, Prenup

## 4.55 Fillies' Stakes (€5,400: 1m 4f) (6)

|       |                    |                              |            |
|-------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 (4) | A TICKETATKATIMING | 124 Miss S West 5-10-27      | Whelan     |
| 2 (1) | ART DE VIVRE       | C Fellows 3-9-1              | N Callan   |
| 3 (2) | 0-IT'S MARVELLOUS  | 170 A Balding 3-9-1          | J Bryan    |
| 4 (5) | 6 LEAZY LINDSAY    | 18 M Harris 3-9-1            | J Crowley  |
| 5 (6) | 26 LMAY            | 18 J & T Gosden 3-9-1        | K Shoemark |
| 6 (3) | 06 MRS TWIG        | 20 W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-1 | L Edmunds  |

4-7 Lmay, 11-2 A Ticketatkatimng, 6-1 Art De Vivre, 10-1 Mrs Twig, 16-1 It's Marvellous, 25-1 Leazy Lindsay.

**Wright choice:** Lmay, sixth in a listed race at Newbury, should appreciate this stiffer test Danger Art De Vivre

**Blinked first time:** Newton Abbot 3.00 Investment Manager. 4.45 Ummndeni. 5.20 Palawan Du Mazet.

Ripon 6.10 King Me.

## Yesterday's racing results

## Leicester

Going: good to firm

2.00 (6f) 1, **Hurt You Never** (Mia Nicholls, 8-11 fav), 2, Port Noir (6-1), 3, Landing Strip (50-1). 7 ran. NR: Fantasy Navigator. 4½f, nk, Adrian Nicholls.  
 2.30 (6f) 1, **Bits And Bobs** (Oisín Murphy, 5-1), 2, Ethrad Rail (100-30 fav), 3, Black Hole (16-1). 15 ran. NR: Ten Club, Zesty Lime. 2½f, hd, A M Balding.  
 3.00 (1m 2p) 1, **Shazam** (Billy Loughnane, 4-6 fav), 2, Lillistart (7-1), 3, Midsummer Dance (7-1). 6 ran. ¾f, 4¼f, K P De Foy.  
 3.30 (7f) 1, **Amber Island** (Laura Pearson, 28-1), 2, Ernie's Valentine (13-2), 3, Above (9-2). 8 ran. NR: Makeen. 1½f, ll, D Loughnane.  
 4.00 (1m 53yd) 1, **Zirayab** (L M Moore, 6-4), 2, Theatre Honours (11-8 fav), 3, To Catch

## 5.25 Handicap (€5,574: 1m 4f) (6)

|       |                        |                          |               |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1 (6) | 0-126 SEAL OF SOLOMON  | 11 (V) E Dunlop 4-9-10   | N Callan      |
| 2 (2) | 5-605 CAPTAIN KANE     | 20 (D) G Scott 4-9-9     | K Stott       |
| 3 (3) | /3-41 SALIGO BAY       | 16 (CD) G L Moore 5-9-8  | R Clutterbuck |
| 4 (4) | 15-10 WONDER STARELAAM | 3 (C) D Coakley 5-9-8    | R Coakley     |
| 5 (5) | 3-230 UDABERRI         | 19 (D) S P C Woods 4-9-7 | James Doyle   |
| 6 (1) | 000-0 SWATCH           | 44 R Brisland 4-9-1      | C Fallon      |

5-4 Saligo Bay, 4-1 Seal Of Solomon, 9-2 Captain Kane, 13-2 Wonder Starelaam, 7-1 Udaberrri, 20-1 Swatch.

**Wright choice:** Wonder Starelaam struggled in a higher grade at Kempton; can bounce back Danger Saligo Bay

## 5.55 Handicap (3-Y-O: £6,480: 1m 2f) (9)

|       |                    |                               |             |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 (2) | 62-1 NADER KING    | 46 (D) Sir M Stoute 9-9       | J Crowley   |
| 2 (5) | 21-2 INTRICACY     | 23 (V,B,F) S & E Crisford 9-8 | James Doyle |
| 3 (9) | 31-5 ASHTANGA      | 28 M Meade 9-6                | K Shoemark  |
| 4 (8) | -4165 BURDETT ROAD | 18 M Bell 9-6                 | N Callan    |
| 5 (1) | 21-56 SHE'S HOT    | 18 T P & O Cole 9-5           | K Stott     |
| 6 (3) | 11-00 RAINTOWN     | 18 (D) J S Moore 9-3          | L Morris    |
| 7 (7) | -3106 GREAT BEDWYN | 20 (D) R Hannan 9-1           | S M Levey   |
| 8 (6) | 06-43 STAGE SHOW   | 26 H & R Charlton 8-12        | T Whelan    |
| 9 (4) | 0566 PLAYCTOR      | 11 R Hannan 8-12              | P Dobbs     |

9-4 Nader King, 7-2 Intricity, 5-1 Ashtanga, 10-1 She's Hot, Burdett Road, Great Bedwyn, Stage Show, 12-1 Playactor, 16-1 Raintown.

**Wright choice:** Raintown, well beaten in the London Gold Cup, will find this easier Dangers Intricity, Burdett Road

## Kempton Park

## Rob Wright

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 5.15 With Respect | 7.20 New Endeavour  |
| 5.50 Mirroring    | 7.50 Marksman Queen |
| 6.20 Mindthegap   | 8.25 Neandra        |
| 6.50 Rollz Royz   | 9.00 Havaila        |

Going: standard to slow  
 Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

## 5.15 Handicap (€4,320: 7f) (14)

|         |                          |                                    |                        |
|---------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 (10)  | 616/1 IBN ALDAR          | 29 (D) C Hills 4-10-0              | B Sayette              |
| 2 (2)   | -0660 DYNAMIC TALENT     | 19 (B,T,CD) Darryll Holland 4-9-13 | L Catton (3)           |
| 3 (6)   | 46466 IMPEACH            | 12 (B,T) C Allen 5-9-13            | J Leavy (7)            |
| 4 (2)   | 0-006 MY MATE TED        | 25 (P,C) R Teal 4-9-13             | Mark Winn (3)          |
| 5 (11)  | 524 PROFIT GIVEN         | 15 I Mohammed 4-9-12               | A Keeley (3)           |
| 6 (9)   | 34220 SANDY PARADISE     | 19 (P,C) R Hughes 4-9-10           | E Jones (7)            |
| 7 (3)   | 312-5 CALONNE            | 35 (P,D) R Brisland 7-9-9          | Billy Loughnane        |
| 8 (4)   | 4-302 IKKARI             | 13 G Baker 4-9-8                   | H Burns                |
| 9 (4)   | 61403 AIRSHOW            | 19 (H,P,C,D) B Millman 8-9-8       | O Searle (7)           |
| 10 (7)  | 45-45 RICH RHYTHM        | 22 R Beckett 4-9-7                 | Laura Pearson          |
| 11 (13) | /602- KING OF THE DANCE  | 287 E J Houghton 4-9-7             | Georgia Dobie          |
| 12 (5)  | -5124 WITH RESPECT       | 14 (T,D) H Morrison 6-9-6          | H Davies               |
| 13 (1)  | 33603 BROXI              | 36 (V,D) D Ivory 5-9-4             | Elisha Whittington (3) |
| 14 (8)  | 00006 SISTERS IN THE SKY | 12 (P,D) G Harris 4-9-3            | Millie Wonnacott (5)   |

4-1 Ibn Aldar, 7-1 Airshow, Ikari, 8-1 King of The Dance, With Respect, 10-1 Broxi, Profit Given, 12-1 Rich Rhythm, Sandy Paradise, Calonne.

## 5.50 Fillies' Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (10)

|        |                |                     |                 |
|--------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 (10) | DAZZLING STAR  | C Appleby 9-2       | W Buick         |
| 2 (3)  | DELICACY       | R Hannan 9-2        | D O'Neill       |
| 3 (7)  | 3 HELLFIRE BAY | 11 J & T Gosden 9-2 | O Murphy        |
| 4 (5)  | KINAKO MOCHI   | R Varian 9-2        | David Egan      |
| 5 (8)  | 3 MIRRORING    | 14 M Bell 9-2       | H Crouch        |
| 6 (4)  | 4 OOPS         | 18 G Boughrey 9-2   | Billy Loughnane |
| 7 (1)  | 6 RATING       | 18 R Meahan 9-2     | D Muscutt       |
| 8 (2)  | 4 WHOOP WHOOP  | 20 R Beckett 9-2    | Rossa Ryan      |
| 9 (6)  | WOODHAY WONDER | T Ward 9-2          | T Marquand      |
| 10 (9) | WORKS OF ART   | A Balding 9-2       | H Turner        |

3-1 Hellfire Bay, 4-1 Dazzling Star, 9-2 Oops, 13-2 Kinako Mochi, 8-1 Whoop Whoop, 10-1 Works Of Art, 12-1 Rating, 14-1 Mirroring.

## 6.20 Novice Stakes (Div I: £5,400: 7f) (14)

|         |                       |                           |                     |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 (3)   | 41- MINDTHEGAP        | 216 R Hannan 3-9-9        | D O'Neill           |
| 2 (6)   | AKKADIAN THUNDER      | R Varian 3-9-4            | Kyle Strydom        |
| 3 (1)   | BOTANICAL             | R Varian 3-9-4            | David Egan          |
| 4 (6)   | 06 DUNMORE EAST       | 36 H Spiller 3-9-4        | D Keenan            |
| 5 (5)   | ENDLESS POWER         | J Tate 3-9-4              | Billy Loughnane (3) |
| 6 (7)   | 0 KING ELVIS          | 14 A Carroll 3-9-4        | Mollie Phillips (3) |
| 7 (12)  | 40- LUNAR LANDSCAPE   | 203 E J Houghton 3-9-3    | Georgia Dobie (3)   |
| 8 (11)  | 4 MAGIC MEMORIES      | 23 G L Moore 3-9-4        | W Buick             |
| 9 (10)  | 2-5 MERLIN THE WIZARD | 19 R H & R Charlton 3-9-4 | H Doyle             |
| 10 (13) | 0-4 OLIVER SHOW       | 19 Sir M Stoute 3-9-4     | R Kingscott         |
| 11 (4)  | 6 SHEROOD             | 40 E Walker 3-9-4         | T Marquand          |
| 12 (2)  | 0- TANGO MAN          | 309 (T) P & O Cole 3-9-4  | Rossa Ryan          |
| 13 (8)  | WILD HOOVER           | A Watson 3-9-4            | H Crouch            |
| 14 (14) | 6 PRETTY FLAG         | 23 G Boughrey 3-8-13      | O Murphy            |

7-2 Botanical, 9-2 Mindthegap, 5-1 Merlin The Wizard, 6-1 Oliver Show, 8-1 Akkadian Thunder, 10-1 Wild Hoover, Magic Memories, 14-1 Endless Power.

## 6.50 Novice Stakes (Div II: £5,400: 7f) (14)

|         |                   |                               |                    |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 (6)   | EXTRICATION       | R Varian 4-10-0               | David Egan         |
| 2 (5)   | 50 GAUTREY        | 15 A Carroll 4-10-0           | A Kirby            |
| 3 (7)   | 1-2 ORCHID BLOOM  | 11 (D) W Haggas 3-9-6         | T Marquand         |
| 4 (11)  | 4 ALL FOR SHOW    | 7 T Butler 3-9-4              | D Keenan           |
| 5 (1)   | BATTISTA          | (H) J & T Gosden 3-9-4        | R Havlin           |
| 6 (4)   | 00 GOLDEN MOON    | 19 W Knight 3-9-4             | Abigail Pierce (7) |
| 7 (14)  | JIMMY FRANKHAM    | Owen Burrows 3-9-4            | W Buick            |
| 8 (3)   | 34 NEW BUSINESS   | 19 A Balding 3-9-4            | O Murphy           |
| 9 (8)   | 6 PHOTON          | 35 R Teal 3-9-4               | B Sayette          |
| 10 (4)  | ROLLZ ROYZ        | (H) J Ferguson 3-9-4          | D Muscutt          |
| 11 (13) | 5- THE YODELLER   | 275 W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-4 | Georgia Dobie (3)  |
| 12 (10) | 50 WHERE'S FREDDY | 25 S C Williams 3-9-4         | Rossa Ryan         |
| 13 (2)  | 0 EYESHADOW       | 19 H & R Charlton 3-8-13      | R Kingscott        |
| 14 (12) | MISS BILLIE       | M Wigham 3-8-13               | J Fegan            |

5-2 Orchid Bloom, 4-1 New Business, 9-2 Jimmy Frankham, 5-1 Extrication, 13-2 Battista, 8-1 Rollz Royz, 20-1 Photon, All For Show.

## 7.20 Handicap (3-Y-O: £6,281: 7f) (11)

|        |                     |                              |         |
|--------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 1 (10) | 14-61 ANIMATE       | 23 (P,D) S & E Crisford 9-11 | A Kirby |
| 2 (1)  | 15-06 AWTAAD PRINCE | 32 Miss A Murphy 9-10        | H Doyle |

|        |                         |                           |              |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 3 (8)  | 4-113 DARK TROOPER      | 114 (B,F,CD) E Walker 9-9 | T Marquand   |
| 4 (3)  | 11440 BERSHIRE PHANTOM  | 18 (V,D) A Balding 9-8    | O Murphy     |
| 5 (2)  | 215-5 NEW ENDEAVOUR     | 21 (CD) R Varian 9-8      | David Egan   |
| 6 (4)  | 64-2 LUNATICK           | 30 H Morrison 9-7         | D Muscutt    |
| 7 (11) | 210- DIAMOND VEGA       | 222 R Beckett 9-7         | Rossa Ryan   |
| 8 (6)  | 03-12 ALPHA CRUCIS      | 43 (B,F) G L Moore 9-5    | W Buick      |
| 9 (4)  | 42-12 ERTEBAT           | 20 (B,T,BF) H Palmer 9-2  | H Davies (3) |
| 10 (7) | 60-15 AJJAJ             | 20 (CD) R Hannan 8-11     | D O'Neill    |
| 11 (5) | 0500- STRICTLY DREAMING | 256 (H) I Williams 8-7    | H Turner     |

4-1 Animate, 5-1 Alpha Crucis, 13-2 Diamond Vega, 7-1 New Endeavour, Lunatick, 8-1 Ertebat, Dark Trooper, Berkshire Phantom.

## 7.50 Handicap (€6,281: 1m) (11)

|        |                        |                              |                     |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 (10) | 31-04 TAMARAMA         | 12 (D) R Beckett 4-10-2      | L Dettori           |
| 2 (1)  | -1240 CRYSTAL CASQUE   | 61 (CD) B Millman 8-9-9      | O Searle (7)        |
| 3 (7)  | 1-45 RAINBOW SKY       | 38 (B,F,CD) C Appleby 3-9-5  | W Buick             |
| 4 (11) | 22-1 PREPENSE          | 48 Sir M Stoute 3-9-5        | R Kingscott         |
| 5 (8)  | 2-110 MAYFAIR GOLD     | 20 (D) A King 4-9-4          | H Doyle             |
| 6 (2)  | 1-1 MARKSMAN QUEEN     | 30 (H,CD) J & T Gosden 3-9-4 | R Havlin            |
| 7 (3)  | 31-13 MAID IN KENTUCKY | 36 (B,F,D) G Boughrey 3-9-2  | O Murphy            |
| 8 (5)  | 001-4 SHERIDAN         | 22 (C) P McBride 3-8-13      | T Marquand          |
| 9 (4)  | 43-00 BECCARA ROSE     | 25 S Fellows 3-8-12          | H Davies (3)        |
| 10 (9) | 50-2 SWITCHCEL         | 26 H Morrison 3-8-8          | Billy Loughnane (3) |
| 11 (6) | 1-561 MOLLY VALENTINE  | 56 (D) D Ivory 3-8-8         | Jefferson Smith     |

9-2 Prepense, 5-1 Rainbow Sky, 11-2 Marksman Queen, 7-1 Maid In Kentucky, 8-1 Tamarama, Switchcel, Molly Valentine, 10-1 Speriamo.

## 8.25 Handicap (€7,731: 1m 4f) (14)

|       |                   |                              |           |
|-------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 (3) | 055-0 STAY WELL   | 19 (H,CD) H Morrison 5-9-9   | W Buick   |
| 2 (8) | 0121/ SECOND SLIP | 643 (W,T,D) J Fanshawe 6-9-8 | D Muscutt |




# Booed Ukrainian: I always said I was not shaking hands

Stuart Fraser

Tennis

Correspondent, Paris



|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| E Svitolina (Ukraine) | 4 | 4 |
| A Sabalenka (Bela, 2) | 6 | 6 |

Ukraine’s Elina Svitolina accused Aryna Sabalenka of inflaming the French Open crowd after she was booed for refusing to shake hands with her Belarusian opponent after their quarter-final match.

Sabalenka, 25, came out on top in the most high-profile sporting contest between athletes from Ukraine and Belarus since the war began 15 months ago. The Australian Open champion’s powerful game proved too strong for Svitolina — a 28-year-old former world No 3 who recently returned after giving birth to her first child in October — in a 6-4, 6-4 win.

While there was an undercurrent of tension throughout the 96-minute contest, a moment of controversy was sparked afterwards when Sabalenka waited with her hands on the net for a post-match handshake. This was despite Svitolina making it clear throughout this fortnight that she would not take part in the traditional gesture with players from Russia or Belarus.

Svitolina ignored Sabalenka and walked straight towards the side of the net to shake hands with the umpire. Some spectators on Court Philippe Chatrier booed her for this, during which Sabalenka looked up to her support team in the stands and gave a wry smile.

Asked afterwards by reporters if Sabalenka had inflamed this incident, Svitolina replied: “Yeah, I think so,

unfortunately. My initial reaction was, ‘What are you doing?’ Because in all my press conferences I said my clear position, so I don’t know. Maybe she’s not on social media during the tournaments, but it is pretty clear. I made multiple statements that I’m not shaking hands, and she played Marta [Kostyuk, of Ukraine] as well in the first round [after which there was no handshake]. It is quite simple.

“It [the booing] was quite expected. Whoever in this situation loses gets booed, so I was expecting that. It was not a surprise for me.”

In response, Sabalenka claimed that her approach at the net was a natural reaction. “It was just an instinct like I always do after all my matches,” she said. “I think she didn’t deserve all these boos. I’m giving such big respect to her with what she’s doing after giving birth. It’s impressive and I’m really impressed by what she’s doing.”

Svitolina called for tennis officials to prevent similar scenes at future tournaments by making it clear to players from Russia and Belarus beforehand that their Ukrainian opponents will not shake hands. In Svitolina’s previous match, Russia’s Daria Kasatkina — who has publicly condemned the invasion — walked straight to her chair, merely giving Svitolina a nod and thumbs up on the way.

“Definitely this would be ideal from them [tournament organisers] to do that,” Svitolina said. “I already was thinking about that before. I should have probably told them about this because it will be just easier I guess for everyone.”

There were no boos when both players walked out at the start, but the crowd was disappointingly sparse because of the clash with the revered lunchtime period in Paris. Ukrainian flags were seen in the stands, although one spectator had hers cut in half upon entry to the grounds in the morning

because security deemed it to be “too big”. Organisers insisted this would be the case for any flag.

Sabalenka, who is unbeaten in grand-slam matches this year after winning 12 in a row, held a post-match press conference yesterday for the first time since the aftermath of her second-round win when she claimed that she “did not feel safe” because of persistent questioning from a Ukrainian journalist. This time she was directly asked whether she supports Alexander Lukashenko, the president of Belarus, with whom she was pictured on various occasions before the invasion.

“I don’t support war, meaning I don’t support Lukashenko right now,” Sabalenka said. “We played a lot of Fed Cup [ties] in Belarus. He was at our matches taking pictures with us after the match. Nothing bad was happening that time in Belarus, in Ukraine or in Russia.

“I said it many times already, I’m not supporting war. I don’t want my country to be involved in any conflict. You know where I stand, you have my position, you have my answer.

“I don’t want sport to be involved in politics because I’m just a 25-year-old tennis player. If I would like to be political I wouldn’t be here.”

While Sabalenka will now prepare for a semi-final tomorrow against Karolina Muchova — the world No 43 from the Czech Republic beat Russia’s Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2 — Svitolina will rest for 12 days before heading to Birmingham for her first appearance of the grass-court season. She is not expecting any boos from the more sympathetic British crowds.

“The support that we got from the UK was massive,” Svitolina said. “Especially taking the case of Wimbledon last year [a reference to the ban of entries from Russia and Belarus] and great support for Ukrainian people in the UK. I am really thankful for them to take the position.”



Svitolina heads for the umpire’s chair rather than to shake hands with Sabalenka,

## ‘Sluggish’ Djokovic hits

Novak Djokovic will have to overcome Carlos Alcaraz for the first time if he is to win a record 23rd grand-slam singles title at this year’s French Open after the top two contenders set up a long-awaited second showdown in Friday’s semi-finals.

Djokovic, 36, once again showed his resilience by battling back to beat Karen Khachanov 4-6, 7-6 (7-0), 6-2, 6-4.

Alcaraz, 20, then followed onto Court Philippe Chatrier and sealed the blockbuster clash by seeing off Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

“It is going to be a really good match to play and watch,” Alcaraz said. “I really wanted to play this match. To be the best you have to beat the best.

“Novak is one of the best in the world so it is going to be pretty tough for me but I am really looking forward to playing at a great level.”

### Results and scoreboards

|                                                                                                                                               |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Cricket</b>                                                                                                                                |            |
| <b>Vitality Blast: North group</b>                                                                                                            |            |
| <b>Durham v Northants Steelbacks</b>                                                                                                          |            |
| Chester-le-Street (Durham won toss): Durham (2pts) beat Northants Steelbacks by four wickets                                                  |            |
| <b>Northants Steelbacks</b>                                                                                                                   | (balls)    |
| E N Gay c Trevasakis b Sowter                                                                                                                 | 53 (45)    |
| C A Lynn c Trevasakis b Sowter                                                                                                                | 24 (24)    |
| J J Cobb run out                                                                                                                              | 2 (5)      |
| *D J Willey c De Leede b Sowter                                                                                                               | 17 (13)    |
| S A Zaib b Sowter                                                                                                                             | 8 (6)      |
| tL D McManus b Parnell                                                                                                                        | 12 (7)     |
| T A I Taylor not out                                                                                                                          | 10 (8)     |
| A J Tye b Parnell                                                                                                                             | 15 (7)     |
| J J G Sales not out                                                                                                                           | 8 (5)      |
| Extras (lb 1, w 11)                                                                                                                           | 12         |
| <b>Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)</b>                                                                                                               | <b>161</b> |
| B W Sanderson and F J Heldreich did not bat.                                                                                                  |            |
| <b>Fall of wickets</b> 1-61, 2-71, 3-100, 4-110, 5-113, 6-123, 7-148.                                                                         |            |
| <b>Bowling</b> Parnell 4-0-35-2; De Leede 1-0-10-0; Robinson 3-0-26-0; Raine 4-0-40-0; Trevasakis 2-0-16-0; Sowter 4-0-14-4; Turner 2-0-19-0. |            |
| <b>Durham</b>                                                                                                                                 |            |
| (balls)                                                                                                                                       |            |
| G Clark c Gay b Heldreich                                                                                                                     | 55 (30)    |
| *A Z Lees lbw b Heldreich                                                                                                                     | 30 (24)    |
| M A Lynn st McManus b Heldreich                                                                                                               | 15 (13)    |
| tO G Robinson c Taylor b Zaib                                                                                                                 | 12 (14)    |
| A J Turner not out                                                                                                                            | 31 (18)    |
| B de Leede c Lynn b Willey                                                                                                                    | 5 (9)      |
| W D Parnell c Sanderson b Tye                                                                                                                 | 2 (4)      |
| L Trevasakis not out                                                                                                                          | 6 (2)      |
| Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 2)                                                                                                                      | 6          |
| <b>Total (6 wkts, 18.5 overs)</b>                                                                                                             | <b>162</b> |
| B A Raine, N A Sowter and L Robinson did not bat.                                                                                             |            |
| <b>Fall of wickets</b> 1-57, 2-99, 3-106, 4-128, 5-150, 6-155.                                                                                |            |
| <b>Bowling</b> Sanderson 3-0-33-0; Willey 3-0-20-1; Taylor 1-0-14-0; Tye 15-0-22-1; Heldreich 4-0-36-3; Zaib 4-0-17-1; Cobb 2-0-17-0.         |            |

|                                                                                                       |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Leicestershire Foxes v Yorkshire Vikings</b>                                                       |            |
| Leicester (Yorkshire Vikings won toss): Yorkshire Vikings (2pts) beat Leicestershire Foxes by 30 runs |            |
| <b>Yorkshire Vikings</b>                                                                              | (balls)    |
| A Lyth b Murid                                                                                        | 5 (10)     |
| D J Malan c Ahmed b Parkinson                                                                         | 2 (4)      |
| J H Wharton b Ahmed                                                                                   | 26 (19)    |
| *S M Khan c Hill b Hull                                                                               | 23 (20)    |
| tJ A Tattersall c and b Ahmed                                                                         | 0 (1)      |
| M L Revis c Hill b Hull                                                                               | 10 (14)    |
| J A Thompson c Finan b Ahmed                                                                          | 2 (4)      |
| D Wiese not out                                                                                       | 50 (32)    |
| B W M Mike not out                                                                                    | 30 (17)    |
| Extras (lb 4, lb 2, nb 2)                                                                             | 8          |
| <b>Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)</b>                                                                       | <b>156</b> |
| D M Bess and J A Chohan did not bat.                                                                  |            |
| <b>Fall of wickets</b> 1-10, 2-21, 3-57, 4-57, 5-63, 6-68, 7-78.                                      |            |
| <b>Bowling</b> Finan 4-0-40-0; Parkinson 4-0-20-1; Hull 4-0-30-2; Murid 4-0-39-1; Ahmed 4-0-21-3.     |            |

|                                                                                                                                        |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Worcestershire v Essex Eagles v Sussex Sharks</b>                                                                                   |            |
| Chelmsford (Sussex Sharks won toss): Essex Eagles (2pts) beat Sussex Sharks by five wickets                                            |            |
| <b>Sussex Sharks</b>                                                                                                                   | (balls)    |
| T G R Clark c Lawrence b Cook                                                                                                          | 0 (2)      |
| T J Haines c Walter b Cook                                                                                                             | 8 (10)     |
| T P Ainsc c Walter b Snater                                                                                                            | 17 (14)    |
| *R S Bopara c Snater b Walter                                                                                                          | 50 (31)    |
| S Khan b Walter                                                                                                                        | 20 (17)    |
| tM G K Burgess c Walter b Cook                                                                                                         | 26 (22)    |
| J M Coles c Allison b Critchley                                                                                                        | 7 (5)      |
| N J McAndrew c and b Critchley                                                                                                         | 1 (2)      |
| F J Hudson-Prentice c Harmer b Cook                                                                                                    | 7 (7)      |
| T S Mills c Harmer b Sams                                                                                                              | 5 (4)      |
| H T Crocombe not out                                                                                                                   | 2 (3)      |
| Extras (lb 1, w 3)                                                                                                                     | 4          |
| <b>Total (19.3 overs)</b>                                                                                                              | <b>147</b> |
| <b>Fall of wickets</b> 1-0, 2-21, 3-39, 4-74, 5-114, 6-123, 7-125, 8-140, 9-141.                                                       |            |
| <b>Bowling</b> Cook 4-0-20-4; Sams 3-3-0-25-1; Harmer 2-0-20-0; Snater 2-0-9-1; Allison 2-0-32-0; Critchley 3-0-17-2; Walter 3-0-23-2. |            |

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Essex Eagles</b>                |         |
| (balls)                            |         |
| tA M Rossington c McAndrew b Mills | 35 (17) |
| D W Lawrence c Coles b McAndrew    | 0 (2)   |
| M S Pepper lbw b Khan              | 48 (26) |
| R J Das c Coles b Bopara           | 2 (3)   |
| P I Walter c Crocombe b Mills      | 2 (5)   |
| M J J Critchley not out            | 25 (22) |

|                                                                                                        |  |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------|
| <b>D R Sams not out</b>                                                                                |  | 29 (16)    |
| <b>Extras</b> (lb 1, w 5, nb 4)                                                                        |  | 10         |
| <b>Total (5 wkts, 14.5 overs)</b>                                                                      |  | <b>149</b> |
| *S R Harmer, S Snater, B M J Allison and S J Cook did not bat.                                         |  |            |
| <b>Fall of wickets</b> 1-1, 2-77, 3-82, 4-85, 5-100.                                                   |  |            |
| <b>Bowling</b> McAndrew 3-0-32-1; Mills 4-0-34-2; Crocombe 1-0-21-0; Bopara 4-0-33-1; Khan 2.5-0-28-1. |  |            |

|                                                                                                                            |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Middlesex v Hampshire Hawks</b>                                                                                         |            |
| Radlett (Middlesex won toss): Hampshire Hawks (2pts) beat Middlesex by five runs                                           |            |
| <b>Hampshire Hawks</b>                                                                                                     | (balls)    |
| tB R McDermott c Cracknell                                                                                                 | 47 (34)    |
| b Hollman                                                                                                                  | 5 (5)      |
| *J M Vince c Eskinazi b De Caires                                                                                          | 32 (22)    |
| T E Albert c Andersson b Hollman                                                                                           |            |
| J J Weatherley c Andersson                                                                                                 |            |
| b De Caires                                                                                                                | 8 (12)     |
| R A Whiteley not out                                                                                                       | 28 (20)    |
| A H T Donald c De Caires b Cullen                                                                                          | 2 (4)      |
| C P Wood c Hollman b Helm                                                                                                  | 31 (21)    |
| L A Dawson not out                                                                                                         | 3 (2)      |
| Extras (lb 2, w 6)                                                                                                         | 8          |
| <b>Total (6 wkts, 20 overs)</b>                                                                                            | <b>164</b> |
| N T Ellis, S W Currie and J A Turner did not bat.                                                                          |            |
| <b>Fall of wickets</b> 1-22, 2-78, 3-94, 4-100, 5-105, 6-160.                                                              |            |
| <b>Bowling</b> Helm 4-0-39-1; Cullen 4-0-41-1; De Caires 4-0-34-2; Andersson 2-0-19-0; Hollman 3-0-12-2; Higgins 3-0-17-0. |            |

|                                      |  |            |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------|
| <b>Middlesex</b>                     |  | (balls)    |
| *S S Eskinazi c sub b Turner         |  | 0 (5)      |
| J B Cracknell lbw b Turner           |  | 0 (4)      |
| P J Malan c sub b Ellis              |  | 18 (15)    |
| M D E Holden c Wood b Dawson         |  | 53 (31)    |
| R F Higgins c Vince b Currie         |  | 43 (35)    |
| tJ L B Davies c Ellis b Turner       |  | 10 (7)     |
| L B K Hollman not out                |  | 11 (11)    |
| J M De Caires c Vince b Wood         |  | 4 (7)      |
| M K Andersson not out                |  | 12 (6)     |
| <b>Extras</b> (b 1, lb 3, w 2, nb 2) |  | 8          |
| <b>Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)</b>      |  | <b>159</b> |

|                                                                                                  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>T G Helm and B C Cullen did not bat.</b>                                                      |  |
| <b>Fall of wickets</b> 1-1, 2-2, 3-45, 4-105, 5-126, 6-134, 7-144.                               |  |
| <b>Bowling</b> Wood 4-1-32-1; Turner 4-1-30-3; Currie 4-0-33-1; Ellis 4-0-26-1; Dawson 4-0-34-1. |  |

|                 |          |          |          |          |           |            |           |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|                 | <b>P</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>L</b> | <b>T</b> | <b>NR</b> | <b>Pts</b> | <b>RR</b> |
| Somerset        | 6        | 6        | 0        | 0        | 0         | 12         | 20.6      |
| Surrey          | 6        | 4        | 2        | 0        | 0         | 8          | 0.95      |
| Hampshire       | 6        | 4        | 2        | 0        | 0         | 8          | 0.81      |
| Glamorgan       | 5        | 4        | 1        | 0        | 0         | 8          | 0.52      |
| Gloucestershire | 6        | 3        | 3        | 0        | 0         | 6          | -0.39     |
| Essex           | 5        | 3        | 2        | 0        | 0         | 6          | -0.54     |
| Kent            | 5        | 1        | 4        | 0        | 0         | 2          | -0.26     |
| Sussex          | 6        | 1        | 5        | 0        | 0         | 2          | -1.32     |
| Middlesex       | 7        | 0        | 7        | 0        | 0         | 0          | -1.54     |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Cycling</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| <b>Cr tierium du Dauphin  race</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| <b>Leading positions: Third stage</b> (Monistrol-sur-Loire to Le Coteau, 194.1km): 1, C Laporte (Fr, Jumbo-Visma) 4hr 43min 28sec; 2, M Trentin (It, UAE Team Emirates); 3, M Menten (Bel, Lotto-Dstny); 4, H Hofstetter (Fr, Ark a-Samsic); 5, M Govekar (Slove, Bahrain Victorious); 6, T Bayer (Austria, Alpecin-Deceuninck); 7, A Zingle (Fr, Cofidis); 8, M Mihkels (Est, Intermark-Circus-Wanty); 9, M Urianstad (Nor, Uno-X); 10, D van Poppel (Neth, BORA-hansgrohe) all same time. |  |
| <b>Overall 1</b> , Laporte 12:21:28; 2, J Alaphilippe (Fr, Soudal-Quick-Step) at 11sec behind; 3, R Carapaz (Ec, EF Education-EasyPost) 17; 4, R Herregodts (Bel, Intermark-Circus-Wanty) 19; 5, M Van Gils (Bel, Lotto-Dstny) 23 6, F Wright (GB, Bahrain Victorious); 7, M Brenner (Ger, DSM); 8, E Boasson Hagen (Nor, TotalEnergies); 9, T Johannessen (Nor, Uno-X); 10, Zingle all same time.                                                                                          |  |

|                                                    |  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Tennis</b>                                      |  |
| <b>French Open</b>                                 |  |
| <b>Roland Garros, Paris: Quarter-finals (seeds</b> |  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| in brackets): <b>Men: Singles</b> (3) N Djokovic (Ser) bt (11) K Khachanov (Russ) 4-6, 7-6 (7-0), 6-2, 6-4; (1) C Alcaraz (Sp) bt (5) S Tsitsipas (Gr) 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5). <b>Doubles</b> (10) M Granollers (Sp) and H Zeballos (Arg) bt (11) K Krawietz (Ger) and T P tz (Ger) 7-6 (8-6), 5-7, 6-4. <b>Women: Singles</b> K Muchova (Cz) bt A Pavlyuchenkova (Russ) 7-5, 6-2; (2) A Sabalenka (Bela) bt E Svitolina (Ukr) 6-4, 6-4. <b>Doubles</b> (6) N Melichar (US) and E Perez (Aus) bt M Bouzkova (Cz) and S Sorribes Tormo (Sp) 7-5, 6-3; (2) C Gauff (US) and J Pegula (US) bt A Bondar (Hun) and G Minnen (Bel) 6-2, 7-6 (7-2). <b>Mixed doubles</b> A Sutjiadi (Indo) and M Middelkoop (Neth) bt Chan Hao-ching (Taiwan) and F Martin (Fr) 7-5, 6-2; B Andreescu (Can) and M Venus (NZ) bt (7) M Kostyuk (Ukr) and M Ar valo (El Salvador) 7-5, 3-6, 10-6. |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Fixtures</b> |  |
|-----------------|--|

|                                                                                              |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Football</b>                                                                              |  |
| <b>Europa Conference League final</b> West Ham v Fiorentina (8.0, at Fortuna Arena, Prague). |  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Cricket</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| <b>ICC World Test Championship final: Kia Oval: First day of five</b> (10.30, 90 overs minimum): Australia v India.                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| <b>Vitality Blast: North group: Edgbaston</b> Birmingham v Derbyshire (6.30). <b>Blackpool</b> Lancashire v Worcestershire (5.0). <b>South group: Sophia Gardens</b> Glamorgan v Surrey. <b>Ageas Bowl</b> Hampshire v Somerset (7.0). <b>Canterbury</b> Kent v Essex (6.30). |  |



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who won yesterday's quarter-final in straight sets. The Ukrainian said that she had made her stance clear before the match

## back to set up Alcaraz semi-final

This is the first time Djokovic and Alcaraz have met since 13 months ago, when Alcaraz prevailed in a third-set tie-break at the Madrid Open. This year they have only twice been part of the same field, here at Roland Garros and at the Italian Open.

The four major tournaments are where Djokovic backs himself the most. In a spot of bother heading into the second-set tie-break, Djokovic took the bull by the horns. He won all seven

points to level the match, continuing a remarkable streak in which he has not made a single unforced error in four tie-breaks at this tournament.

Djokovic dominated from then on, bar a brief blip towards the end of the fourth set when he gifted his break back for 4-4. His response was emphatic, winning eight consecutive points to seal his place in a 45th grand-slam semi-final — only one behind Roger Federer's men's singles record of 46.

"It was due to the quality of his tennis," Djokovic said. "I was struggling to find my rhythm, made a lot of unforced errors and came into the match quite slow, quite sluggish."

Wheelchair doubles partners Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid set up an all-British French Open quarter-final in the singles today. The top seed Hewett beat Tom Egberink 6-3, 7-5 yesterday, while unseeded Reid comfortably saw off Maikel Scheffers 6-1, 6-1.

## Lacy, 16, offers relief amid British gloom

Elgan Alderman

Amid the tales of woe about women's tennis in Great Britain, Isabelle Lacy provided a positive story yesterday. A mile away from where the 16-year-old is studying towards A-levels in maths and business studies, the lowest-ranked player in the women's singles at the Surbiton Trophy knocked out the No 3 seed on Centre Court. And her coach missed it because he had tickets to the French Open.

Lacy, the world No 852, defeated Madison Brengle, the world No 95 from the United States, 7-6 (7-2), 5-7, 6-1 in her first match against a top-200 player. It was a day of success for British women, with five winners from six matches, though Dan Evans cautioned against too much backslapping. The world rankings, he said, do not lie.

First, the heart-warmer. The daughter of Caroline Lacy, who as an agent represented Tim Henman and is the head of tennis relations and event development at the LTA, won two matches in qualifying, with teachers from Surbiton High School in attendance, to take on Brengle in the first round.

The teenager's expectations were "pretty low", but her excitement was sky high. She overcame cramp in the second set to reassert control, looking much more powerful than her 33-year-old opponent, who has a career-high ranking of No 35. "I tried to not look too deep into her results," Lacy said. "But I looked at the first few and was like, 'Oh gosh, she's playing all the people I used to watch on TV.'"

Among the spectators were Jeremy Bates, Jodie Burrage, who is the British No 2, and Anne Keothavong, Britain's Billie Jean King Cup captain. Lacy is used to playing in front of famous faces: Eric Dier, the England footballer, is a family friend and was court-side when she played at Wimbledon last year, reaching the second round of the girls' singles.

**Lacy stunned the No 3 seed in the first round at Surbiton**

One person who was absent yesterday was her coach, Alastair Filmer. He was texting Lacy's mother throughout the match. "He thought I was going to be playing the French Open and then we changed my plan," Lacy said. "So his wife got ground passes and they've gone for a three-day holiday, so he couldn't believe he messed up the schedule."

At the end of this month, after her exams next week — "I should be working" — Lacy will contest Wimbledon qualifying, having become the under-18 national champion in April. She is the British No 27, but even the British No 1, Emma Raducanu, is not in the world's top 100. There were no Britons in the women's singles at the French Open.

Five wins out of six at Surbiton yesterday did at least dispel some of the clouds. As well as Lacy, upsets were provided by Eden Silva, the world No 372, against Marcela Zacarias, the world No 188 from Mexico, and Sonay Kartal (No 277) against Slovakia's Viktoria Hrucakova (No 136). Katie Boulter and Katie Swan also won; Heather Watson was the only Briton to lose.

Boulter and Watson pushed back at recent doom-mongering. "We've got some really good players between 100 and 200 [who] are all capable of being inside 100," Boulter said. Watson cited injuries as a reason why the rankings do not reflect players' abilities. The decision not to award points at Wimbledon last year, because Russian and Belarusian players were banned, affected Watson: she reached the last 16 but saw no rankings benefit.

Last month Evans, the No 1 seed in the men's draw, pointed to the rankings as evidence of malaise. "It's actually a compliment to the players because I think they're very good," Evans said after his first-round win. "When they play I always see them winning, but when they don't, I ask why because they're winning when I see them. People are going to say it's positive but the rankings don't lie. I think it'll be wild cards all round maybe at Wimbledon. If that's a good spot, we're in a struggle, aren't we?"



## Premiership set to have only ten teams next season

CONTINUED FROM BACK

to £5 million in an attempt to prevent further overspending.

Tom Ilube, the RFU chairman, acknowledged that the sport needs to "professionalise its management off the pitch" as the ownership model of Premiership clubs, who are overly reliant on wealthy benefactors, has been proved to be unfit for purpose.

Six months of talks for a potential buyout of London Irish by a US-based consortium failed to reach a conclusion, while Mick Crossan, the owner for a decade, decided he was unwilling to bankroll the club any more.

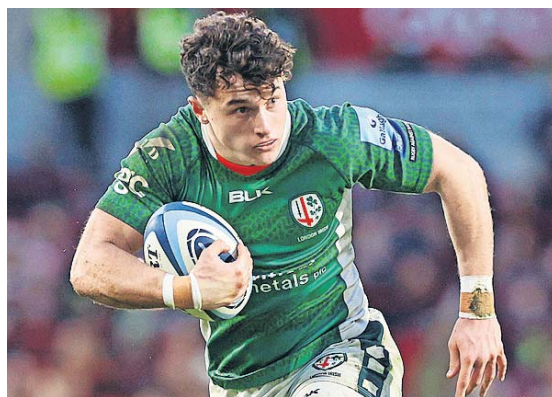
Their players and coaches must now seek employment for next season and a hardship fund has been set up jointly by the RFU, Premiership Rugby and the Rugby Players' Association for players from the three clubs.

The Premiership is expected to be a ten-team competition next season after Jersey Reds, the winners of the Cham-

pionship, did not apply for promotion because of an inability to meet the minimum standards required, including a 5,000 capacity stadium with the ability to increase to 10,000.

"Rugby has an underlying need to professionalise its management off the pitch, just as it has done on the pitch over the past 25 years," Ilube said. "Covid-19 accelerated the impacts of underlying structural challenges and had a major effect on PRL clubs and the RFU. Given the cost of living crisis, the post-Covid-19 bounce-back has been weaker than expected, and that has meant clubs with unsustainable business models have gone out of business."

"To thrive, clubs need to have a wide-ranging offering and varied revenue streams. All three clubs that have failed have had fragile business models for many years. The structure and ownership of a stadium is a factor, alongside reliance on a single funder, challenging societal trends, financial mismanagement and an insufficiently large fan



**Henry Arundell, the 20-year-old wing who has broken into the England team during the past year, must look for a new club after London Irish were suspended from the Premiership and told they cannot compete in any league next season**

base. We, along with PRL and investors, will use the remodelling of the new Professional Game Agreement to create a more sustainable game."

London Irish had been given an extended deadline, either for a takeover to be completed by the US-backed consortium or for Crossan to commit to

backing the club for another season. Crossan, the chairman of Powerday, a waste management company, had decided he could not fund them any more. Last year he indicated he was ready to give the club away for nothing as long as new owners were prepared to fund the operation, but the business has

looked increasingly unsustainable. While the club own their training facility, they do not own their home ground, having played for three seasons at the Gtech Community Stadium, the home of Brentford FC, after spending two decades as tenants at Reading's Madejski Stadium. Brentford were not keen to extend the agreement, and London Irish's failure to find their own home has proved costly.

"It is the specific job of the RFU to reinvest revenues in the overall growth of the game, both at community and professional level," Ilube said. "We contribute £25 million to the Premiership each year, but cannot continue to invest in failing business models."

Simon Massie-Taylor, the chief executive of Premiership Rugby, said it was committed to creating "a professional rugby system that London Irish can re-enter at the right time. As a league we are making significant progress in recalibrating so that Premiership Rugby prospers in the seasons ahead".



## Sport Champions League final

# How Grealish went from City's £100m letdown to linchpin

After a season on the margins, record buy is now a mainstay thanks to Pep's patience, Haaland link, and hard work, writes **Tom Roddy**



Jack Grealish was packing his bags to leave Aston Villa's pre-season training base, at The Lensbury on the banks of the River Thames in Teddington, but wanted to speak with Dean Smith before departing.

There are very few people, let alone coaches, in football who know Grealish as well as Smith and on that warm summer's day in August 2021 the former Villa manager was bidding farewell to the local boy he'd moulded into a superstar. Manchester City had activated the £100 million release clause in Grealish's contract. He was about to become the most expensive player in British history, a title that adds to expectation, and Smith knew exactly what to say.

"I kept telling Jack that Manchester City haven't paid all that money for you to win the Premier League because they're doing that already," Smith tells The Times.

"They're paying that much money for you to go and win the Champions League. He loves pressure and he liked the fact that was the message I was sending him: go and win the Champions League."

Grealish and Smith after Villa's 2019 Championship play-off win



In Istanbul on Saturday night, only two years after leaving Villa, Grealish can fulfil that challenge and, in doing so, be immortalised as one of the only players in English football history to achieve the Treble. For Grealish, satisfaction will come from being a central figure in that historic group. His role in Pep Guardiola's team has been entirely transformed.

Little over a year ago, on the final day of the domestic season, Grealish stood on the edge of the Etihad Stadium pitch, a Premier League winners' medal around his neck, but within the celebrations were words of self-reflection. He had been an unused substitute against Villa, as Guardiola preferred to introduce the since departed Oleksandr Zinchenko and Raheem Sterling to turn a two-goal deficit into a 3-2 title-clinching victory.

"Credit to the manager, he could have brought me on but I don't think he fancied it," Grealish said. "I was

doing gambols in front of him at one point. I was desperate to come on."

Grealish had gone from the frontman under the spotlight at Villa Park to the understudy backstage.

"He's his biggest critic," Smith says. "He's very harsh on himself and that's what drives him. I was manager at Brentford and we played Villa a few weeks before I moved there. It ended 2-2 and I thought Jack had played well. I shook his hand and told him.

"A week into my Villa job I was having a chat with him and he said, 'I thought I was poor that game'. Straight away that just opened my eyes to what he thought of himself as a player, the standards he set."

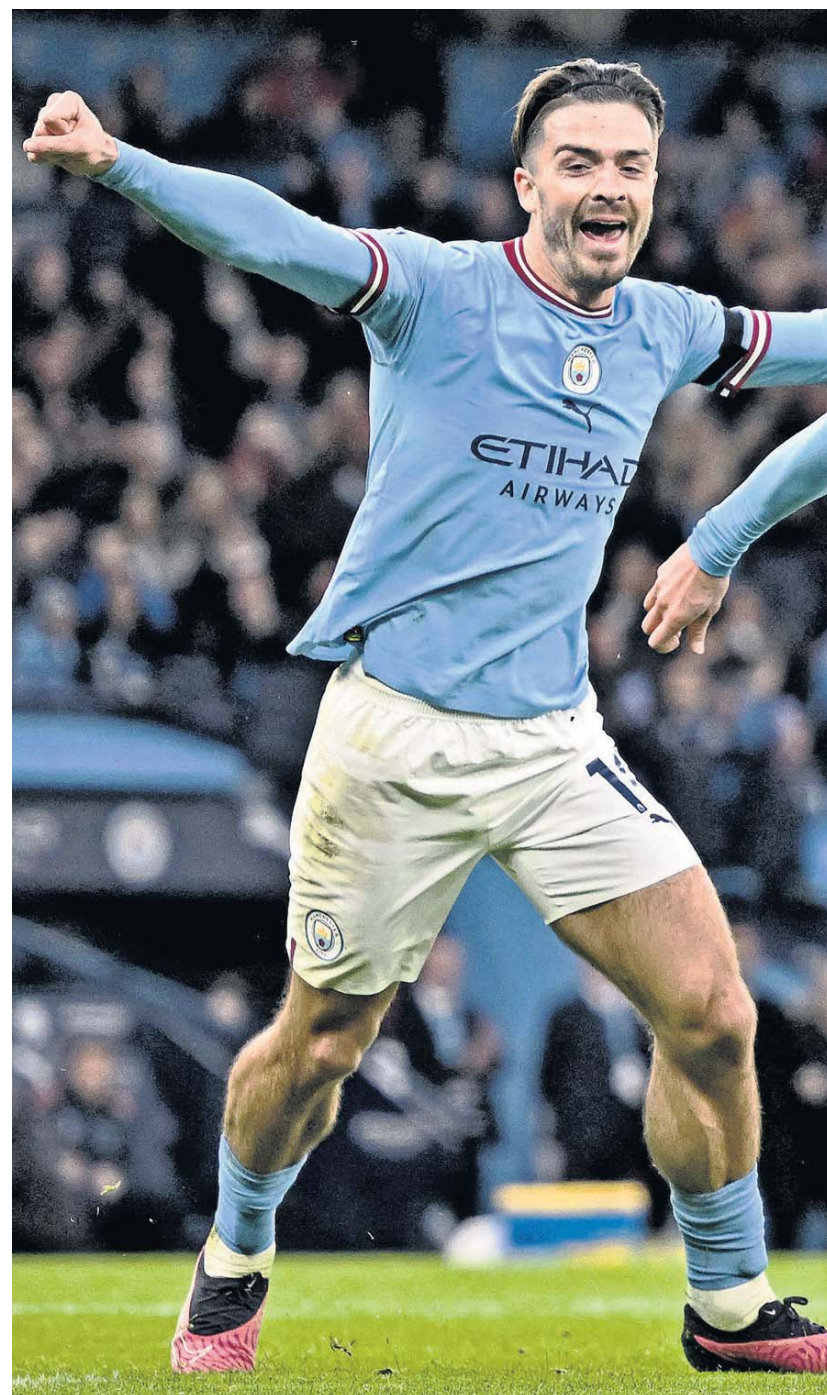
Having contributed to 18 league goals in his final season at Villa, more than a quarter of the team's total, Grealish managed only six (three goals and three assists) in his first year at City. He was the club's tenth-highest scorer — Rodri and the defender, Aymeric Laporte, recorded a better return.

Neil Taylor sat next to Grealish in the Villa dressing room for four years. "He found it hard to adapt, but when you've been walking into the same building since you were seven years old it is going to be hard anywhere else," Taylor, the former full back and now Wales Under-21 coach, says. "He needed a change of mindset.

Everything was built around him at Villa, getting the best out of him and how we could get him on the ball as much as possible to affect matches, and he had a free reign.

"The team would often do as much as they could out of possession to keep him energised in possession. Man City don't work like that.

"There are 22 players just as good as you, so it's got to be about the team



Grealish has formed a formidable partnership with Haaland, a key factor behind

and no egos." Grealish may not have been entirely pleased with that first year but Guardiola was content. He values players who retain possession, who aren't reckless. Despite the dramatic improvement in Grealish

this year, there were significant question marks raised over his form in late September having failed to score or provide an assist in the opening month of the season. It isn't a given that Guardiola defends players

# WILL IT BE BUBBLES IN PRAGUE?

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his improvement after an underwhelming and frustrating first campaign at City

in public but he provided a robust response in his press conference before a trip to Wolverhampton Wanderers. Grealish scored within 55 seconds of the game at Molineux the next day.

Grealish admits that he has been in awe of Guardiola at times. "I don't get nervous with fans or anything like that because people have seen what I can do, but he actually makes me nervous sometimes, I swear, and I feel I've tried to impress him too much sometimes this season," Grealish had said at the end of the previous campaign. He had also been in awe of

Kevin De Bruyne, blown away by João Cancelo, Bernardo Silva and Gabriel Jesus. In the penultimate game of his first season came a sense of belonging. Grealish scored away to West Ham United and rediscovered his swagger. He spoke to his influential father, Kevin, afterwards and said he felt like himself again, the player who earned that record move.

Smith has seen that return over the past ten months. "The biggest compliment I can give him this season is he looks like he's got that confidence back of the player he was at Aston Villa," Smith says. "He would

always talk about top players and what they do and how they do it. When he moved he was talking about how good the training sessions were and the quality in that group. He feels a part of that now."

Many feared that Grealish would be the architect of his own failure. "Keep off the top shelf," was Roy Keane's playful advice to him during an interview on Sky Sports, with reference to his reputation for partying. Those close to Grealish suggest that he has smartened up off the field.

Erling Haaland's arrival last summer helped, too. The attention shifted. It meant that Grealish wasn't under quite as much scrutiny as the new goalscoring machine up front. Both were heavily critiqued in the early stages of this season but a bond had already been formed.

Haaland had immediately been drawn to Grealish, along with the English corner of the City dressing room, and their connection on the field was first seen in a game during their pre-season tour to the United States against Bayern Munich in Green Bay.

After storms in Wisconsin had subsided, Grealish provided the assist for Haaland's first City goal, a low cross from the left met by the Norwegian striker's long right leg. They celebrated together and, walking down the Lambeau Field tunnel at half-time, Haaland told Grealish: "That's why I'm here. Exactly this ball, that's why I'm here."

More than half of his assists this season have been for Haaland. Grealish's statistics are not drastically different between the two campaigns: six more attempted dribbles, 46 more successful passes, three fewer chances created, 25 fewer touches in the opponent's box.

These are not the numbers you would expect from a player whose progress has appeared huge. Where that can be seen is in his confidence in possession: only two players in the Premier League (Brighton & Hove Albion's Lewis Dunk and team-mate Rodri) have carried the ball further than Grealish. "Get hold of the ball, keep it, win fouls," has been Guardiola's constant message to him.

"Believe it or not, that's not that common in football; people with that sort of courage to play a certain way when it's tough and the pressure's on," Taylor says.

But the biggest development for those who know Grealish most has been off the ball. His work rate and discipline has increased significantly.

"It was always the Gareth Southgate problem picking him for England, the out-of-possession stuff, why he was picking other people over him for a period of time," Taylor says.

### Grealish's playing time at Manchester City

In his two seasons at Manchester City, Grealish's playing time has been roughly equal in the Premier League but has grown substantially in the Champions League

#### Total minutes played



#### Premier league

2021-22 1,917

2022-23 2,063



#### Champions league

2021-22 461

2022-23 846

"Pep applied the same principles: you've got to be as good out of possession as you are in possession if you want to win major trophies.

"That's pretty obvious to see now: [he's making] last-ditch tackles, even the penalty that wasn't a penalty in the FA Cup final [win over Manchester United]. Jack going for a header on a diagonal cross makes me laugh because you wouldn't put Jack in that position, but it's the work he's had to do for the team, getting back, following runners."

Smith remembers assistant coaches not wanting to referee small-sided training games because of Grealish's competitiveness. Taylor tells

stories of him showing his frustration by attempting to take on the entire opposition.

"What he had to get used to, and what Pep wants, is you have to stay and wait out wide for the ball to come to you," Taylor says.

"I know you're desperate to go and find it, and that's

what I mean by the five-a-side, when he'd take it off the 'keeper and run all the way down the pitch in the Paul Gascoigne-type character he is. But it's the discipline to let us get the ball to you and then affect the final third, and really do your best in the positions we want you to have it."

The Champions League has provided a barometer of Grealish's progress and Guardiola's faith in him. Having started both semi-final legs against Real Madrid on the bench last season, he played all 180 minutes in this season's last-four clash as they advanced to the final.

Inter Milan, Istanbul and immortality await. Grealish has been a central reason why City are chasing history, one of the final strokes in Guardiola's pièce de résistance. As Smith told him in Teddington, this is why City signed him.

**Man City  
v Inter Milan**  
Champions League final  
Ataturk Stadium, Istanbul  
Saturday, 8pm  
TV: BT Sport 1  
Radio: talkSPORT

## Guardiola cautious but Walker insists he will be fit

Charlotte Duncker

Kyle Walker has allayed fears over his fitness for the Champions League final despite missing training yesterday.

The full back, who started both legs of the semi-final triumph over Real Madrid, limped off in the final few minutes of City's 2-1 FA Cup final win over Manchester United on Saturday. Pep Guardiola cited a back issue as the reason for the player's absence yesterday.

Walker, 33, was the only absentee as the squad trained at the City Football Academy. They will fly to Istanbul tomorrow to prepare for Saturday's final against Inter Milan, where they will seek to win the Champions League for the first time in the club's history and

seal the Treble, having already secured the Premier League and FA Cup.

"He had a disturbance in his back," Guardiola, the City manager, said of Walker. "Yesterday he was not good. Today he was a little bit better. We didn't want to take a risk and we will see in the next few days."

Walker, however, was more optimistic and played down concerns, joking that his absence was because of his age. "I'm completely fine,

**The defender missed training yesterday because of a back problem**



it's just an extra day of recovery," he said. "I've played a lot over the last number of weeks."

City could become the second English side, after United in 1998-99, to complete the Treble, but Guardiola knows they will not have the backing of the whole country on Saturday.

"When you are at this stage, not everyone around the world wants you to win," he said. "I am sure there are a lot of people in Italy who want Inter [to win] and lots don't. That's football."

Pushed on whether he believed neutral fans in England would be on his side, he replied with a wry smile: "I don't know. I don't know if United want us to win the Champions League or not."

It is City's second Champions League final, having lost to Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea in 2021. Guardiola is hopeful that the momentum of having already won two trophies can prove to be the difference this time.

"One week ago we won the FA Cup," Guardiola said. "In that moment [2021] we'd lost two times against Tuchel's team and had doubts about if we could do it. It is not the same but they play five at the back, both teams, Chelsea and Inter. Hopefully we can attack a little bit better than we did in that time."

## Real to target Havertz if move for Kane falls through

Tom Allnutt

Real Madrid are ready to make a move for Chelsea's Kai Havertz as they look to replenish their forward options after the surprise exit of Karim Benzema.

Real have identified Harry Kane, 29, as their priority target to replace Benzema but Havertz, 23, has been discussed as a cheaper and younger option if Tottenham Hotspur prove too difficult to negotiate with.

Signing both Kane and Havertz has not been ruled out but it is more likely that one or the other arrives, with Jude Bellingham set to join from Borussia Dortmund for more than £100 million. Real have their eye on making a fresh move for Kylian Mbappé, or even Erling Haaland, next year.

Havertz, who joined Chelsea for £75.8 million in 2020, has two years left on his contract and is unlikely to extend it. Carlo Ancelotti, the Real manager, is a huge admirer of Kane but the club believe Havertz could cost half as much as the England captain, with Spurs wanting negotiations to start at £100 million.

Real are short of attacking options after the departures of Benzema, who yesterday completed a move to Al-Ittihad in Saudi Arabia, Marco Asensio, Mariano Díaz and Eden Hazard, whose contract was terminated a year early. The 32-year-old is considering an offer to play in MLS in the United States.

Spurs will seek approval from their new head coach, Ange Postecoglou, whose appointment on a four-year deal was formally announced yesterday, on potential targets, even as they search for a new director of football. They have expressed an interest in Manchester United's Harry Maguire, a close friend of Kane, and are also keen on the Crystal Palace defender Marc Guéhi and Brentford goalkeeper David Raya.

## United ready to sell Henderson

Charlotte Duncker

Manchester United are prepared to sell their goalkeeper Dean Henderson to Nottingham Forest but want to tie David de Gea down to a new deal first.

Henderson, 26, spent last season on loan at Forest and is keen to depart Old Trafford. De Gea, 32, is close to agreeing new terms with United which would mean a reduction in his £375,000-a-week wages. Henderson started 18 times in the league for Forest before he suffered a thigh injury. United are thought to want a £30 million fee.

## Lockyer is given all-clear to play

Tom Allnutt

Tom Lockyer says he has been given the all-clear to play football again after the Luton Town captain collapsed during the Championship play-off final.

Lockyer, 28, had heart surgery after suffering an atrial fibrillation, which caused the defender to fall to the ground in the eighth minute against Coventry City at Wembley on May 27. Luton went on to win on penalties, to earn promotion to the Premier League.

"The top part of my heart was beating four times faster than it should have been," he said. "I've had the operation to fix it and it shouldn't happen again. I've been given the all-clear."



Sport Europa Conference League final

# Moyes and Rice one win from place among greats

Gregor Robertson Prague

For David Moyes, the biggest moment of a 25-year career in management awaits; for Declan Rice, in his final game in claret and blue, the chance to leave a legacy.

West Ham United face Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final in Prague tonight aiming to win the club's first major trophy in 43 years. And yet for Moyes and Rice, manager and captain respectively, whose futures have been the subject of intense scrutiny this season, the result could define their time in east London.

For Moyes, it has been a season during which the Scot came within one defeat of the sack on more than one occasion, a season during which after £165 million of investment in the squad last summer, his side toiled at the wrong end of the Premier League table.

Yet the same season could end with the 60-year-old joining Ron Greenwood and John Lyall as the only West Ham managers to lift major silverware. It could still end with Moyes, in game 1,097 in the dugout, lifting his first major trophy and, in the process, becoming the first British manager since Sir Alex Ferguson to win a European trophy.

"It's great to be sitting here," said Moyes, who looked calm and contented on the eve of West Ham's first European final since 1976. "To be in a European final for any manager is a thrill, whether you're experienced or young, it's one of the pinnacles you can get in football as a coach."

"I've been coaching since I was 34, 35,

## Fiorentina v West Ham

Kick-off: 8pm  
TV: BT Sport 1, YouTube. Radio: talkSPORT



had over a thousand games in football and maybe 600 in Premier League. I've been fortunate enough to be in some finals, win some promotions. But this is the biggest moment."

Moyes shuffled in his chair when it was put to him that victory tonight, whatever has happened or comes next, would enshrine legendary status in east London. "I don't think of myself as any different to anyone else in this room," he said. "I'm really fortunate and privileged and thankful to be given an opportunity to be a football manager,



West Ham prepared at Sparta Prague's imposing training centre above the city



Rice can leave a legacy in what could be his final West Ham game as Moyes, below, seeks triumph from a season of toil

and to have the opportunity to go this far in my career, and be on stage like this, I think it's really special.

"I don't ever really think of myself as being a legend or any words like that. I'd just like to be known as a football manager and one who's serious about his job and tries to do the best he possibly can, week in, week out, try to prepare my teams to be competitive. I'd like to be known as much for that as much as I would the word 'legend', really."

Moyes, understandably, refused to speak about Rice's departure, yet there could be no end more fitting, after almost a decade at the club as man and boy, than for the England midfielder to follow in the footsteps of the great Bobby Moore and Billy Bonds, and lift a trophy in his final game.

"I think to win a trophy like this, a European trophy, with West Ham, I think it puts every player at a higher status within the club in terms of with the fans, how you'll be remembered," Rice, 24, said. "It would just mean everything, to be honest. We'll do everything we can to do the job."

Up to 20,000 West Ham supporters have converged on the City of a Hundred Spires, many of whom have been forced to take circuitous and imaginative routes to the Czech capital

after hikes in air fares from London of up to 500 per cent.

It is a mighty shame, too, that only about a quarter of them will see the game in the flesh, after Uefa's paltry allocation of 5,780 tickets to both clubs inside the 19,370-capacity Eden Arena. David Moyes Sr, 87, will be among them, just as he was in Brussels, Gent and Alkmaar in previous rounds. "Hopefully we can give him something to remember," Moyes said of his father.

Fans without tickets are being asked to gather at Letna Park, a West Ham designated fan zone in the shadow of the Generali Arena, home of Sparta Prague, while Fiorentina's supporters will congregate at Vystavisti, a multi-purpose venue two kilometres away.

There is set to be a huge police presence and, with the disgraceful attack on West Ham supporters during the semi-final in Alkmaar still fresh in the mind, the UK's Metropolitan Police and Football Policing Unit will also be on the ground to provide assistance.

And so after clocking up more than 11,000 air miles, with visits to Denmark (twice), Belgium (twice), Romania, Cyprus and the Netherlands, a voyage, in truth, through some of Europe's footballing backwaters, a final against a genuine dignitary of Italian football makes for a mouthwatering denouement.

La Viola have lifted two Scudetti, six Italian Cups, one Italian Super Cup and, like West Ham, one Cup Winners' Cup, in 1961. This season, Vincenzo Italiano's side finished runners up to Inter Milan in the Coppa Italia and eighth in Serie A.

Like West Ham, victory tonight presents the only path to Europe again next season, with qualification for the Europa League group stage a secondary, but lucrative, prize.

Yet rather than see this as the end of a journey, Moyes still believes that, for West Ham, it can be the start. "I've always said the best years are still to come," said Moyes, whose message to the players will not change. "Ultimately, they have to find a way to win."



## Three Fiorentina players to watch: The chance-creating left back, the lethal super-sub striker and the brave, goalscoring winger

### Cristiano Biraghi Left back, Italy

The Fiorentina captain has also been their leading creator this season. Only Kieran Trippier, among defenders in Europe's top five leagues, created more chances this season than Biraghi's 82, and across all competitions, the left back has racked up 11 assists.

He can whip the ball in from out wide but he's also adept at crossing from the left half-space outside the box. He takes a mean set piece too, and has featured regularly for Italy under Roberto Mancini.

**Luka Jovic**  
Centre forward, Serbia  
Jovic, pictured right, will

probably come off the bench, with the Brazilian Arthur Cabral likely to start up front, but he's a heck of a player to be able to bring on and he's in form: he scored in his last two Serie A appearances of the season, against Torino and Roma, and he recorded a hat-trick of assists against Sampdoria. The 25-year-old's spell at Real

Madrid was underwhelming to say the least, but his record at this level of European competition is outstanding: across the Europa League and Conference League, he



has scored 16 goals in 1,550 minutes of football.

### Nicolás González Winger, Argentina

With 10 minutes left to play in Fiorentina's last game of the Serie A season, nothing but points to play for and a final on the horizon, González

absolutely hurled himself into the goalpost in scoring a header against Sassuolo. That typifies his wholeheartedness. Left-footed, he can play on either wing of a 4-2-3-1 but he's more of a goalscoring winger than a creative one - he's exceptionally good in the air, takes a lot of shots and is very adept at drawing fouls.



A Mickey Mouse cup will be won tonight. A Mickey Mouse cup in a Mickey Mouse tournament at a Mickey Mouse stadium in Vrsovice, to the southeast of Prague.

The Fortuna Arena is roughly the size of Vale Park, home to Port Vale of Sky Bet League One, adding to the underwhelming nature of the Europa Conference League final between West Ham United and Fiorentina.

Yet here's the thing. Had the match been played at Wembley, it would have sold out. Had it been played at the same venue as the Champions League final in Istanbul on Saturday, it would have sold out. Had it been played at the Stade de France in Paris, where last year's Champions League final was held, it would have sold out.

Elitist snobbery is what tells us the Conference League is Mickey Mouse — and yet two of the Premier League clubs that wanted to form a European Super League are not even good enough to be part of it next season, with Chelsea having fallen 17 points shy of the standard required. As for Tottenham Hotspur, the club haven't won a trophy of any description since 2008. Would their supporters really have spurned a European final this week? Have they actually forgotten what it felt like to win?

For most football clubs, Mickey Mouse trophies are all they can ever win. What are West Ham supposed to do? Wait for the miracle of Leicester City to recur in Stratford or hold out for that first elusive Champions League final? Modern football has the biggest prizes sewn up now. Even the FA Cup is no longer the open competition it once was. Since 1989, across 35 editions, 31 have been won by one of the six teams that tried to form the Super League.

In 1980, leaving Wembley as a teenager, had someone told me that, 43 years later, I would never have seen my club win another trophy, or that West Ham would remain the last winners of the FA Cup from outside the top division, I would have thought they were crazy. West Ham had won the 1975 FA Cup and had reached the final of the 1975-76 European Cup Winners' Cup; Sunderland in 1973 and Southampton in 1976 were both FA Cup winners from the second division.

Then football changed. Of the past 14 teams to reach the FA Cup final, only two have been from outside that elite breakaway band of six. Opportunities to win are being reduced all the time. And then, having been left to live on scraps by the biggest clubs, the smaller ones have to listen to what little chance of success they have being derided.

Do you know why 79,389 turned out to watch Bolton Wanderers beat Plymouth Argyle in the Papa Johns Trophy at Wembley this year? What are they supposed to do? Wait for Bolton or Plymouth to get there in the FA Cup, and do it properly? Most likely, apart from a play-off final, this is their Wembley shot now. And the same applies to the Conference League. For those clubs shut outside the Magic Kingdom this is a huge tournament. They are not Mickey Mouse entrants. West Ham have won as many European trophies as Manchester City, and won in Europe in 1965, so earlier than Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea.

As for their opponents, Fiorentina, they are part of an exclusive band of 15, and an even more exclusive band of one. The 15 are clubs that have appeared in the finals of three Uefa competitions — the European Cup/Champions League, the Uefa Cup/Europa League and the now-defunct Cup Winners' Cup. That list is now closed, with five English clubs on the inside: Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester United and Tottenham. So not bad company. The club of one, meanwhile, is for those that have appeared in four Uefa tournament finals, including the new Conference League; and Fiorentina are its sole members.

And yes, it could be smugly argued that



West Ham can win a first trophy since Geoff Pike, Paul Allen and Ray Stewart's 1980 FA Cup glory day

# Martin Samuel

## A Mickey Mouse cup? Only if you're a footballing snob



### The voice of sport

something has to go very wrong for an elite club to end up in the Conference League, and in some countries that is true. It would require a disaster for Paris Saint-Germain or Bayern Munich to be there, for instance. Yet Feyenoord were finalists last year, and 12 months on won the Eredivisie; and Roma are the holders and then reached this season's Europa League final. West Ham are in fact the only Conference League finalists not to have appeared in a European Cup final; Fiorentina are among those beaten by the first great Real Madrid side. So there is history here, and pedigree, yet still many dismiss it, just as they do the Uefa Super Cup and Fifa's Club World Cup. In 2019 it was even argued that Liverpool should have sent a shadow squad to Doha for matches with Monterrey, of Mexico, and Flamengo, of Brazil, to concentrate on

a Carabao Cup quarter-final tie with Aston Villa. Yet the Club World Cup is only going to get bigger and more prestigious, if Fifa handles it properly. As for the Super Cup, it is the curtain-raiser to the European season, so has its place, just as the Conference League has merely picked off the lower strata of Europa League clubs. And even if there were not rightful lineage, there are still up to 30,000 excited West Ham supporters heading to Prague, the majority without tickets, to speak for the worthiness of actually trying to win a trophy, rather than parading fourth place and a fat Uefa cheque.

We have become conditioned to seeing football as a branch of accountancy, sacrificing a shot at glory for Premier League safety or mid-table complacency. To dare to do so is Tottenham's motto, yet what is daring about cheering Aston Villa into seventh place, so your team can avoid the Conference League next season? Is the Conference League beneath Tottenham now, just as other trophies are seemingly beyond them?

Villa supporters appear genuinely excited to be back in Europe for the first time since 2010-11 and so they should be. They have Unai Emery, a Uefa tournament specialist, in charge and the power of the Premier League behind them. English clubs are the big beasts of Europe right now. If West Ham, who have experienced a poor domestic campaign, can reach the final of the Conference League, it shouldn't be long before

## Munich better for Declan than Arsenal

Tonight is likely to be Declan Rice's last game for West Ham. He wants to play Champions League football and the early options are Bayern Munich and Arsenal. Bayern are believed to be some way short of West Ham's asking price, as are Arsenal, and it is hoped by the club that interest from Manchester United or Manchester City will create a more competitive market. Yet if the immediate choice is Arsenal or Bayern, and Rice's motivation is Champions League football, there is only one club where it comes guaranteed.

Bayern are never going to finish outside the top four in Germany. Arsenal, who can say? There is now talk of Paris Saint-Germain circling the defender William Saliba, who has one year left on his contract. He may be only 22, but Arsenal's form dipped alarmingly without him last season. After his injury against Sporting Lisbon on March 16, Arsenal won only five of their last 11 league games, one being the dead-rubber match against Wolverhampton Wanderers on the final day.

Arsenal are an excellent, highly promising team, but their top-four status is fragile. Bayern's is assured. The challenge at Arsenal is greater, and maybe the rewards too. Yet if the Champions League is the draw, there really is no comparison. Even City cannot be certain of it, once Pep Guardiola departs.

## Grealish handball call is bird-brained

If, after the ludicrous award of a penalty against Jack Grealish in the FA Cup final, fans must learn the rules, as the Times expert Peter Walton suggests, then rule-makers should learn the laws of biomechanics, and perhaps develop an understanding of common sense and fair play. The argument that Grealish's arm was in an unnatural position, inset, when struck by the ball is bunk, because natural positions change based on whether a player is standing, jumping, still or in motion.

Grealish's arm was exactly where you would expect it to be if a player leaps on the run. From a standing start, sure, Grealish can jump like a penguin, but football isn't like that. There is a reason high jumpers approach the bar running and why Dick Fosbury developed his arms-by-the-side flop — because arms are hard to control when jumping in motion. We're not birds. We use them for balance and the movement is close to involuntary. So Peter and the referees may have the rulebook on their side, but little else, and certainly not science.



Villa begin plotting a tentative path to next year's final. That is likely to be played at a stadium with a much larger capacity than the 20,000 in Prague, because the appeal of the Conference League took even Uefa by surprise.

They should have seen it coming. First, that if a competition admits even one club from each of Europe's biggest leagues, those clubs are likeliest to reach the final and bring with them support that will swamp an undersized venue. Second, that there are a lot of mid-ranking clubs, starved of historical rays of sunlight, who will embrace this tournament and a chance for rare glory. West Ham and Fiorentina might have sold out the Olympic Stadium in Baku in 2019 in a way even Arsenal and Chelsea could not, because their fans would not have presumed they would tread this way again, soon.

I'll be watching the final with the man who first took me to Upton Park before I even went to primary school, and who is 84 now. Also present will be the boys I accompanied to their first West Ham game at roughly the same age.

And given that it is 47 years since West Ham were last in a European final, who knows when we'll get to do this again? Hopefully next year, but let's be realistic, maybe never. So don't tell us that what we're watching, what we're doing, is Mickey Mouse. Those fans unaccustomed to chasing glory every season know exactly what it is, and it's the same for all of us. It's massive.



## Sport Golf's new world order

## McIlroy shafted because tour

## Owen Slot

Chief Sports Writer



Among the many preposterous numbers in this story, the figure that was bandied about for the offer for Rory McIlroy to join LIV Golf was some considerable distance north of \$100 million. McIlroy said no to that. It would be only human now to wonder: why?

He allowed himself to be the poster boy for the establishment, the PGA Tour and DP World Tour and, in effect, for the history of the game, as well as for the ethics of rejecting Saudi money and being a de facto ambassador for Saudi Arabia. Phil Mickelson, on the other hand, called the Saudi government "scary motherf\*\*ers" yet took its money nevertheless, about \$200 million of it. So the big sports result yesterday was that Mickelson was the winner. McIlroy captained the losing team. The extent to which he has been shafted by the PGA Tour is immeasurable. It dug in with him for a fight yet announced, out of the blue: sorry, but we have no stomach for it any more.

The history of these recent feuding years will show that most professional golfers tried to maintain the status quo. Each of them was persuaded to do so by two main drivers: loyalty to their original employers and the system that had made them wealthy and successful; and an ethical stance on Saudi Arabia and its human rights record.

Each of them will have weighted their decision differently. However, their stance is now just a footnote. Whatever it was they believed in and wanted to stand for regarding Saudi ownership of their game is now an old conversation. The game of brinkmanship has finished. On we go.

There were many responding to the news of "peace in our time" as a good thing for golf. In the sense that all wars are bad, it was. The R&A released a statement saying that it was a "huge step forward" in "ensuring that the sport continues to thrive". And it probably is.

Yet that is the point here: huge sighs of relief all round, the civil war is over, golf is happy again. So quickly did golf's divide become more about the divide and less about the causes of it.

The Masters was only nine weeks ago and the impasse was in every story:

## Staveley's 'key role' in golf peace deal

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

Arabia has got its wish of becoming a significant player in global golf.

The three tours will continue as different circuits for now, but Monahan said: "After two years of disruption and distraction, this is a historic day."

In a letter sent to players, Monahan said the new deal would end all litigation". LIV had been suing the PGA Tour on anti-competition grounds with the PGA Tour counter-suing for tortious interference. The US Department of Justice's antitrust arm has also been probing the PGA Tour.

"We will work to establish a fair and objective process for any players who desire to reapply for membership with the PGA Tour and DP World Tour following completion of the 2023 season," Monahan said. At present, LIV players are barred from the PGA Tour.

Al-Rumayyan said he felt the PIF could do for golf what it had done for

## Saudi's sporting empire

## FOOTBALL

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) owns 80 per cent of Newcastle United after a £300 million takeover in 2021. This week, the four leading clubs in the Saudi league were taken over by the PIF, who hold a 75 per cent stake in Al Nassr, where Cristiano Ronaldo plays, Al Ittihad, who yesterday signed Karim Benzema, Al Hilal and Al Ahli.

## BOXING

Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in state-of-the-art stadiums to hold big bouts. The Diriyah Arena hosted the heavyweight title rematch between Anthony Joshua and Andy Ruiz in December 2019, while the Jeddah Super Dome hosted Joshua's rematch with Oleksandr Usyk.

## FORMULA ONE

There have been two races held in Saudi Arabia as part of a 15-year deal worth a reported \$65 million per grand prix, while Aramco, the state-owned oil company, has a \$40million-a-year sponsorship deal. PIF also has a 17 per cent stake in the Aston Martin F1 team.

## CRICKET

Saudi government representatives and owners of IPL teams are reportedly in talks to launch the world's most lucrative T20 tournament. At present, the Indian board prevents Indian players from competing in rival T20 leagues.

## WINTER SPORT

Saudi Arabia has been chosen to host the Asian Winter Games in 2029. Skiing and snowboarding will feature in mountains near the \$500 billion futuristic city project Neom.

would a LIV golfer win the Green Jacket? Would the LIV golfers then storm the green? And then the LIV golfers were so damned good that everyone went away from Augusta agreeing that this was too much. The divide was hurting the game. Golf was suffering.

By that point the narrative was almost completely about how golf needed mending and not about human rights in Saudi Arabia, its criminalisation of homosexuality, the still-growing

number of beheadings or the murder of a journalist. Slowly all that was being washed away. That is sportswashing.

Many people have a different stance on this. They point out that our government does business with Saudi Arabia, so why shouldn't sport too? And other nations have their issues, so just leave the Saudis alone. And Saudi Arabia is most certainly improving — or modernising, or Europeanising or whichever term you wish to use. It is nuanced.

The news, though, was the kind of sledgehammer blow of reality that wherever you stand it actually doesn't hugely matter. You might be McIlroy and that didn't matter in the end much either. This is the way sport is going. Whatever the size of the dam, the money is so plentiful it will wash it away.

On Monday, we were getting used to the news that Karim Benzema was leaving Real Madrid for a contract in the Saudi football league. Yesterday morning we were still wondering if — or when? — Lionel Messi was going to follow. And then the Kingdom kind of got McIlroy, Scottie Scheffler, Jon Rahm and the rest of golf instead.

It is not a drip-drip of change now. It was initially a few events, big boxing bouts, a Formula One grand prix. The next stage was buying clubs. Now it is a stake in a sport in its entirety. This is the new direction. And the news is that Arab money wins. Golf tried to hold out; it didn't really last long, did it?

There was a deluge of confusion and a whopping absence of detail about the merger. We don't know yet what future seasons or schedules will look like. We were just given the news with the kind of positive sheen you would expect: all sides are happy, we're relieved it's over, golf is the winner.

That may yet turn out to be the case. Golf may, at last, get a proper global tour. It may be amazing.

However, the bare facts are that Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) attempted to do business with the PGA Tour and the PGA Tour rebuffed its offer. The PIF then set up its own rival LIV Golf enterprise. The PGA Tour then decided that it would do business with the PIF after all.

It turns out that the players — the McIlroys, the loyalists, the remainers — are rudderless and will finish up where the storm takes them.

You can reject the Saudi landing. You may not believe in it. You may have reservations about specific aspects of it. But that has already cost you a nine-figure dollar sum. In sport, be careful what you stand for.

before being eligible for the DP World Tour and Ryder Cup.

McIlroy has cause to feel particularly aggrieved. Having called the Saudi project "a money grab", as well as investing months into reshaping the new PGA Tour, he now finds himself playing for PIF money. Last year he branded Phil Mickelson "naive, selfish, egotistical and ignorant" after he told a journalist that the Saudis were "scary motherf\*\*ers" who "execute people for being gay", but that it was worth working with them to gain leverage to force lasting change on the PGA Tour. Having now achieved that, Mickelson tweeted last night: "Awesome day."

Donald Trump wrote on social media: "Great news from LIV Golf. A big, beautiful, and glamorous deal for the wonderful world of golf." But the news came as a shock to PGA Tour players. Collin Morikawa, the 2021 Open champion, tweeted: "I love finding out morning news on Twitter."



DeChambeau, centre main, was one of the first high-profile golfers to defect

## Q&amp;A: All you need to know on LIV merger

## When does the merger start?

The parties involved are attempting to strike a definitive agreement, but all pending legal action between the tours has been called off, with a view to golf's "new era", as Jay Monahan described it, coming into effect for 2024.

Yasir Al-Rumayyan is set to become chairman of a new, yet-to-be-named for-profit entity, which will include the commercial businesses and rights of both the PGA Tour and the DP World Tour, along with LIV Golf. The PIF will make a large minority investment in the new entity, of which Monahan will be chief executive, and the PGA Tour will retain majority voting rights.

## What happens to team events?

In his letter to PGA Tour members, Monahan said

there would be a "comprehensive evaluation" of LIV Golf's model to determine how best to "integrate team golf into the professional game". The much-vaunted franchise model had struggled to gain momentum but was a fundamental aspect of LIV's long-term revenue strategy, with executives adamant that, as the teams gained notoriety, they could negotiate contracts with external sponsors and even sell stakes to investors.

The team captains, of whom many were key first-movers in the breakaway, such as Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka, hold equity in those franchises, meaning the model is unlikely to be ditched.

## How does this affect Ryder Cup availability?

It remains unlikely that European stalwarts such as Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood and Sergio Garcia will be eligible for this year's tournament in Rome as they have relinquished their DP World Tour memberships. If they





# lacked his stomach for a fight

HECTOR VIVAS/GETTY IMAGES



to LIV but several stars including McIlroy, below, remained loyal to the PGA Tour and were critical of the Saudi venture

wish to regain their cards, they would still need to pay fines for breaching the DP World Tour's regulations, along with amassing the necessary points to qualify automatically for Luke Donald's team or instead rely on a captain's pick. However, from next year, a process will be established whereby those who either handed in their cards or were suspended will be able to reapply and be eligible for the Ryder Cup too.

## Will the PGA players get a Saudi merger bonus?

The PGA Tour had already dramatically increased its prize funds in direct response to the threat posed by LIV, with a series of "elevated events" featuring minimum purses of \$20 million. What remains to be seen is how those who turned down eye-watering signing-on fees from LIV and remained loyal to the PGA Tour will be compensated.

Hideki Matsuyama is one such example, having reportedly spurned a nine-figure bonus, and many of the most high-profile PGA Tour players who were repeatedly urged not to defect will now feel scorned, even betrayed, if LIV players are able to return en masse with no means of financial balancing.

## What will happen to the fines?

Monahan said applications to reapply for PGA Tour and DP World Tour memberships will be consistent with each tour's policies, meaning it is likely LIV players will still need to settle

outstanding fines to be readmitted. After winning its Sports Resolutions arbitration hearing against LIV, the DP World Tour imposed fines on all those players that competed in conflicting events without being granted a release last month. Those players were required to pay £100,000 to the DP World Tour within 30 days, but many chose to relinquish their cards instead of paying the remaining amount, which



Former player Greg Norman has been the face of LIV Golf as the tour's CEO

totalled another £400,000 in some cases. In the United States it is expected that the PGA Tour will assess what fines to impose on an individual basis.

## Who will play in which event?

The PGA Tour, DP World Tour and LIV Golf calendars will all continue as scheduled for the remainder of this year, but the plans thereafter remain vague. As part of the framework for the merger, LIV has agreed not to recruit any more players from the PGA Tour or

DP World Tour, meaning its roster is unlikely to change in the immediate future. Whether there will be a significant overhaul or new pathways created that allow PGA Tour and DP World Tour members to compete in LIV events in the longer term remains to be seen.

## Qualification for majors?

Qualification for the majors is based largely on the world-ranking system, outside of those players who have already earned exemptions through previous victories. LIV's pursuit of world-ranking points has been a tortuous affair, with its no-cut format, limited-field events not fulfilling all the criteria for approval by the Official World Golf Rankings board. Monahan and Keith Pelley had recused themselves from any votes relating to LIV's application, though now the tours have agreed to work under one banner, it seems inevitable the case for awarding LIV points will be accelerated. If not, an alternative that has been posited is a category of entry to the majors for players based on their performance in LIV events.

## What will happen to individual organisations?

The three tours will all continue as individual golfing circuits, with their own calendars and schedule of events, but their commercial businesses and rights will be grouped into one overarching for-profit entity. *by Tom Kershaw*

## To those who resisted, this feels like abject surrender

### Martin Samuel



In an interview with CBS last year, Rory McIlroy was asked to clarify some of his more strident opinions on LIV Golf. He most certainly did that.

"There's no room in the golf world for LIV Golf," McIlroy insisted. "I don't agree with what LIV is doing. If LIV went away tomorrow, I'd be super happy."

So that must have made him, what, super sad yesterday? For far from going away, LIV and its Saudi Arabian paymasters — having merged with the PGA Tour — pretty much own McIlroy's sport now, and that means they own him, too. The Saudis are where they wanted to be when this all began: inside.

Their investment will help fund McIlroy's tour, McIlroy's events, McIlroy's prize winnings. The players that resisted LIV's money, like McIlroy and Collin Morikawa, must feel very conflicted now. Morikawa said he found out the news on Twitter, meaning the LIV-adverse were not kept in the loop even by their own organisation.

Maybe the PGA Tour and DP World Tour knew what was coming, if the news leaked. It seems unimaginable that McIlroy — by far the most outspoken of the resisters — was not given a heads up, but certainly he would have been in a minority. It may explain some of the kinks in his game, if he did know. This as good as makes his actions across the last two years meaningless.

The winners are all on the other side. Money won. Saudi Arabia won. Greg Norman won. Sergio Garcia won. Donald Trump won. All the rivals that mocked the golfers who stayed loyal, who made little jibes at McIlroy personally — Phil Mickelson recently said that no LIV team would want him "because they'd have to deal with all his BS" — they won. The reaction yesterday summed up the divide; LIV golfers celebrating, PGA and DP Tour golfers perplexed, angry and in the dark.

Michael Kim's social media seemed to capture the mood. From what the

hell is going on, to speculation that a supposedly player-run organisation kept between "five and seven" employees informed, to a facetious offer to live stream a scheduled players meeting that afternoon. No matter what money was on the table, there was definitely a feeling that the loyal players had been sold out.

And we can argue that this is common sense for the game of golf. That a Ryder Cup tournament without Brooks Koepka in the United States team is devalued and hardly worth watching. That much is true. In the beginning, when LIV golfers were going to be barred from the majors, the entire sport appeared lost. In pure sporting terms, then, this is a positive development. Europe and the United States will meet at their strongest. Financially and competitively, the future is secure.

Yet to those who claim to have resisted LIV's money on ethical grounds, who said Saudi Arabia's determination to buy a sport made them feel queasy, this will feel like the most abject surrender. "Welfare check on Chamblee," Koepka tweeted mockingly of the Golf Channel pundit Brandel Chamblee.

Yet the crime of Chamblee has been to link the state of Saudi Arabia with murderous repression, and question its place in the sport. Does he really deserve to have his face rubbed in this? Is it really such a triumph that golf has chosen to cash in? It is hard to see this as the good guys winning.

PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan may feel he has saved his job as well as preserving golf by striking this deal but, reputationally, he is finished. One by one, he was condemned by the men whose careers he must oversee.

"Tell me why Jay Monahan basically got a promotion to CEO of all golf by going back on everything he said the past two years," Dylan Wu asked.

"Mickelson went up in flames in the media and now everyone's finally realising he was right. The PGA Tour does whatever they feel like."

Put to Monahan, he hid behind realpolitik. "Things have changed," he said. But, really, they have not. Taking the money is the oldest tale in sport, the irony being that very recently Monahan dug at LIV by rhetorically asking if anybody had ever felt the need to apologise for being a member of the PGA Tour. They will now.

## Executives at heart of the deal



**Yasir Al-Rumayyan**  
Governor of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund and a key figure in the country's sporting takeover. The Public Investment Fund has spent around £2bn to establish LIV. He is the chairman of Newcastle United and the petroleum company Saudi Aramco.



**Jay Monahan**  
Worked at IMG and Fenway Sports Group before joining the PGA Tour and held various roles before succeeding Tim Finchem as commissioner in 2017. He had been urging players to remain loyal and introducing a series of lucrative events to combat the breakaway.



**Keith Pelley**  
He was president of Rogers Media in Canada before being appointed European Tour chief executive in 2015. He held talks with LIV but signed a strategic alliance with the PGA Tour to the dismay of Ryder Cup stalwarts such as Lee Westwood and Ian Poulter.



# Sport

## Saudi rebels buy into golf world order

- LIV agrees shock merger with PGA Tour
- Legal fight ends but players must pay fines

Rick Broadbent, Martyn Ziegler, Martin Hardy

Golf's civil war is officially over after the Saudi-funded LIV Golf pulled off a stunning coup by forcing a merger with the PGA and DP World Tours.

The news shocked the sport, with some leading players only finding out on social media and LIV frontman Greg Norman unaware until just before the announcement. Rory McIlroy, the most consistent anti-LIV voice and de facto spokesman for the PGA Tour in the power struggle, and Tiger Woods were not privy to the secret meetings that have been taking place for seven weeks.

It means an end to the legal cases between the tours with the Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) pledging to make a capital investment into the new entity to "facilitate its growth and success". That will run into billions.

It is a remarkable volte face by Jay Monahan, the PGA Tour commissioner, and Keith Pelley, the DP World Tour chief executive, but they denied it was a victory for the Saudi regime, which has been accused of using golf to sports-wash human rights offences.

"I would say that it is a great victory for global golf," Pelley said. "It's a fantastic victory for the consumer. It's great for European golf. I'm thrilled."

Monahan, who has previously questioned the origins of Saudi money, said: "I recognise that people are going to call me a hypocrite, but circumstances do change. We just realised we are

better off together than we were fighting or apart." Monahan, whose position is now being called into question, said only a few executives were involved and the result was a framework agreement that still needed ratifying.

He faced a backlash at a players' meeting at the RBC Canadian Open last night, which he admitted was "intense" and "heated". Asked about players, like McIlroy, who had turned down hundreds of millions to stay loyal to the PGA Tour, Monahan also said "an equalisation over time" would be a "fair concept", which suggests players may have to pay their way back.

Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the governor of the PIF and Newcastle United chairman, will become chairman of the new, unnamed body, with Monahan as chief executive. Pelley said he had "every confidence" the DP World Tour (formerly the European Tour) would have a seat on the new board. Norman was not named in any of the releases, raising questions about his future.

LIV Golf is only 15 events old after being set up in October 2021 but has split the sport by recruiting some top players, including former world No1 Dustin Johnson, with \$200 million (about £161 million) contracts and \$2 billion of PIF backing.

The peace agreement means the tours will merge their commercial operations "to unify golf" and produce a cohesive 2024 schedule including team events. Whatever that looks like, Saudi

Continued on page 62



Phil Mickelson, one of the prominent LIV rebels, said it was an "awesome day"

### 'Biggest match of my career'

Moyes has his sights set on winning West Ham's first trophy for 43 years

Europa Conference League final, pages 60-61



## RFU suspends London Irish

John Westerby

London Irish have become the latest club to be suspended from the Gallagher Premiership, the third of 13 teams that began the 2022-23 season to go out of business, deepening the sense of crisis in English club rugby.

Irish, who finished fifth in the top flight, were suspended by the RFU after missing a 4pm deadline yesterday to pay their players and staff, and they now follow Worcester Warriors and Wasps out of the competition. They will also not be able to compete in any league next season.

Players such as Henry Arundell, the 20-year-old England wing, and Tom Pearson, the highly promising flanker, must find new clubs, although the ability of most Premiership sides to fit additional players into their squad is limited after the salary cap was reduced

Continued on page 57

## Life bans for snooker pair

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

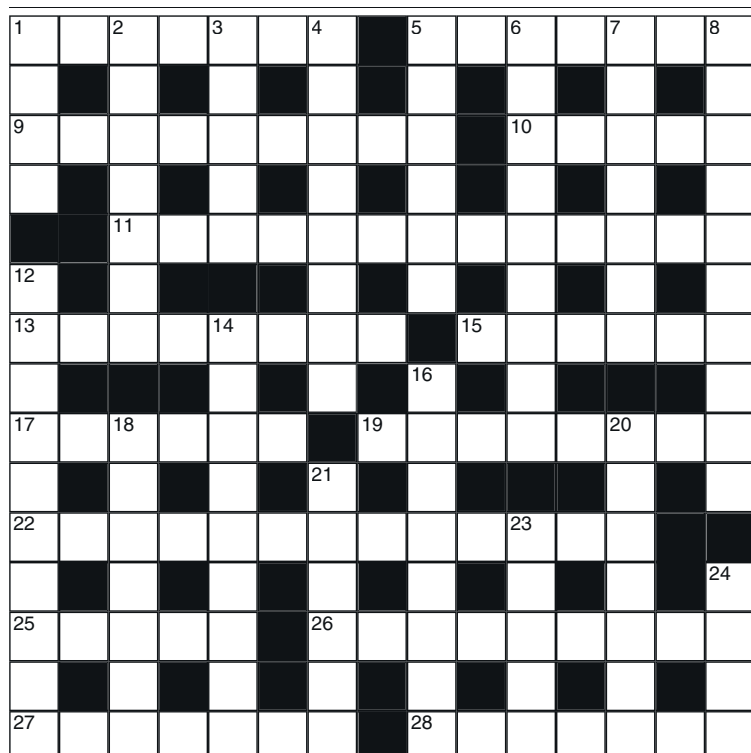
Two Chinese snooker players have been banned for life and eight others given lengthy suspensions for fixing matches in Britain.

Liang Wenbo, a 36-year-old senior player with a court conviction for violence, was one of those banned for life after threatening a young player and putting pressure on others. The other lifetime ban was handed to his accomplice, Li Hang.

Those banned include the 2021 UK champion, Zhao Xintong, 26, who remained in Britain for last month's disciplinary hearings while the other nine returned to China. He was given the lowest ban of one year and eight months. Another leading player on the world tour, the 22-year-old former Masters champion, Yan Bingtao, has

Continued on page 54

## Times Crossword 28,623



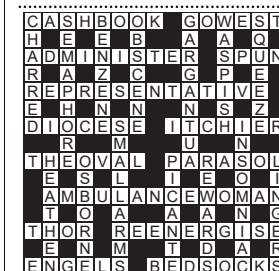
### ACROSS

- 1 Golf club's tip wet (7)
- 5 A writer, some soldiers, and so on (7)
- 9 A small amount of cremating bungled (9)
- 10 Style of note female swapped with Charlie (5)
- 11 Large creature to return carrying? Cry audibly (8,5)
- 13 Kill American, then relax close to balcony — that's cold (3,5)
- 15 Turns down occasionally yummy Asian food (3,3)
- 17 China object to a pet exercising (6)
- 19 Crawling on this is a result of poor judgement? (3,5)
- 22 Novel liquid's cool and blue (9,4)
- 25 Dog ignoring bone initially getting good score on course (5)
- 26 Shopkeeper, say, and master criminal (9)
- 27 Affair of cat eating a box of ingredients (7)
- 28 Spooner's dratted pig is shamefaced (7)

### DOWN

- 1 Arrest New York basketball player for speaking (4)
- 2 Article on short page supporting Bob's first Wailer? (7)
- 3 When in France, me and a lady picked up a turn of phrase (5)
- 4 Fork out to cover party game (8)
- 5 Fool to be awful when entertaining His Majesty (6)
- 6 Not straight with southern part of London over smell (9)
- 7 City uncovered more lists (7)
- 8 Lowest part of engine thermostat (10)
- 12 A&E, say, with request to lab perhaps that's unnecessary? (5,5)
- 14 Old and stern? Not so much, and not smelly! (9)
- 16 Upset friends a little, being careless (8)
- 18 Island worker on one other island briefly (7)
- 20 Mundane novel is anonymous (7)
- 21 Outlaw seen outside shack somewhere in Asia (6)
- 23 Poem about old theatre (5)
- 24 Make out small drink containing eggs (4)

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# I've been savaged by a cat. The pain is intense, the laughter is worse

Carol Midgley



Welcome to my self-pity party, where I'm writing from bed with a sick bucket by my side and

a face like soured milk (OnlyFans requests in writing, please). I also have a bandaged hand and wrist. But can I dine out on it? Elicit any tea and sympathy? No, I cannot. Because I have been savaged by a cat. And when you tell people that, they laugh.

I don't blame them. So would I. I have watched those viral video compilations called "Cats attacking people" and sniggered with the rest of you. Ho ho, hee hee — look at that screeching moggy hanging off that woman's hair extensions. Lol at that one sinking its teeth in that man's ankle for daring to tiptoe past his bin.

It wasn't my cat that attacked me, to be clear. I help out occasionally at my lovely friend's animal rescue charity and had gone to pick up a (small — the shame of it) tabby that was alone in a house after its elderly owner died.

I didn't realise how frightened it was until, like an idiot, I put out my arm to try to lift it from the high cupboard where it was hiding and it launched a furious multipronged ninja attack, digging in with claws and teeth, a two-for-one offer. I'm sure *You've Been Framed* would have bitten my bandaged hand off for a clip of a middle-aged woman swaying atop a stepladder screaming four-letter words with a cat hanging off her arm.

Less hilarious, though, was the feeling of being stabbed with skinny knives, and that electric shocks were shooting up my arm. Many times have I been bitten and scratched by cats but this was different, as if I'd put my hand in a furry blender.

Back in the car the blood and the pain were not abating. "Google 'Can a cat break your arm?'" I shrieked at my husband in full drama-queen mode as I waited at an NHS walk-in centre. Here I will say the NHS were great. I was seen after an hour, when the nice nurse told me cat scratches and bites are the worst for infections and the reason it hurt so much I vomited is probably because its claws had hit the nerves.



She also prescribed two sets of antibiotics, which, not to put too fine a point on it, are making me permanently nauseous. I'm not allowed to drink alcohol or sit in sunlight, so my two favourite things — drinking lager in the sun — are a no-no. And in a heatwave. Meanwhile my throbbing hand has swollen up like a small, puce ham. Someone suggested I should draw David Cameron's face on it and I didn't even laugh. Not much, anyway. Maybe when I'm feeling better.

I know what you're thinking: "Boo hoo, stupid woman is slightly injured by a creature not ten inches high." Do you think I'm not embarrassed? Laid low by something I weigh 14 times more than? All I'm saying is if I'd been bitten by a dog, no one would have tittered. This has not changed my cat love; if anyone thinks this is leading to a pitchfork march against pussies, they are wrong. The fault was mine (the cat is being cared for, by the way). But I had underestimated cats' scissorhands superpower.

I'm also reassessing the time a few years ago when I pooh-poohed a report that claimed if your cat was bigger it would consider killing you. My friend who used to be a postman said angry cats could be more vicious than dogs and some posties would refuse to deliver to those addresses, writing "CAL" (cat at large) on the envelopes. A couple of years ago a cat terrorised postmen in Peterborough. Name? The Purrminator. Now if you'll excuse me I'm feeling sick again. Responses to OnlyFans requests may take some time.

## Unusual careers advice

Unemployed Belgians are being asked if they are willing to work in porn films by job centres in Brussels. Well, let's hope it pays better than fruit picking. It may even be less hard on the knees.

But it would be one awkward interview in your jobcentre: "So, Mrs Miggins, I know you're 59 with lumbago, but how would you feel about three days as an extra on *Saturday Night Beaver*? Nothing too onerous, just some light spanking and being third link in a daisy chain with some 'pizza delivery men'. Shall we say 9am Monday?"

Closer inspection reveals that it is actually jobless "artists" who are being asked to consider the porn work that has infuriated some Belgian politicians. But I can see the idea spreading, porn being one of the few growth industries. Which brings us to the weekly joke. "I was watching porn last night when my grandma suddenly appeared. It was a terrible way to find out what she did for a living."

# Is breast best?

A new study claims that breastfed children perform better in their GCSEs — but adjusting for other factors is a minefield, reports Francesca Steele

I still remember the gasps of my antenatal group when the woman leading the class on breastfeeding told us that breast milk could "cure cancer", as we practised positioning plastic babies on to the perky nipples of knitted breasts. There were two doctors in our group of eight who shook their heads in shock. The rest of us stared silently, guessing the claim was a bit of a stretch but also knowing the much-repeated adage that "breast is best", and that if it didn't cure cancer, it would at least probably make our babies healthier, smarter, more likely to become prime minister. Right?

Breastfeeding human babies is, of course, nothing like pulling a doll up into the "nose to nipple" position. Breastfeeding — at least for some — is extremely hard work. Nipples crack and bleed, breasts swell and inflame, milk can dry up or overflow.

Is it worth it? A new study says that it is, if you want your children to do well at exams (and what bruised and bewildered new mother isn't thinking of straight As as they depart the labour ward, I ask you). Researchers for the University of Oxford study looked at data from 4,940 pupils in England born between 2000 and 2002 and found that breastfed children were about twice as likely to achieve top GCSE results as non-breastfed children. A link between breastfeeding and the highest grades remained even after researchers took into account other factors such as socioeconomic family background and their mother's intelligence score. Adjusting for these other factors, children breastfed for at least 12 months were 39 per cent more likely to get A and A\* grades in maths and English. The reason, according to the study, is probably that "breast milk contains polyunsaturated fatty acids and micronutrients, which enhance neurodevelopment".

I confess, I have skin in this game. My son, now seven, didn't seem to like breastfeeding from the off, and neither did I. He didn't scream like some of my friends' newborns as I tried to attach him to my enormous, milk-heavy bosom (which I loathed heaving out again and again) but he didn't seem to enjoy them much either. He was often hungry afterwards and when I expressed milk I could see why — after binge-watching a few hours of *CSI* with Medela Swing express pumps hanging off me and gobbling fenugreek tablets to try to up my supply, I'd still barely produce a single bottle of "liquid gold" (there's a reason they call it that — there's not always a lot of it about).

How well was my child being fed? We had his mild tongue-tie snipped (there's nothing like shoving a bleeding baby's mouth on to your boob to help with bonding, is there?) but it didn't help. From very early on we did mixed feeding (bottle and breast) and at four months, after numerous visits

from experts and reading up on the data, which actually seemed to show that gains for breastfed children were marginal, we switched entirely to formula. My husband got to feed our child (hello sleep!), which he loved because he bonded with the baby as much as me. When our daughter was born three years later and didn't take to breastfeeding either (and she really did scream), I gave mixed feeding a month before I switched to the bottle. I didn't and don't feel guilty. My babies were well fed and wildly loved.

But what about that study? Did I just find the data I was looking for? Could I or should I have tried harder? One of the books I devoured when my daughter was born was *Cribsheet*, by Professor Emily Oster. An economist at Brown University in the US, Oster writes books on parenting that break down the data on emotive issues such as pregnancy, sleep training and so on, examining the claims about the benefits of breastfeeding, from higher IQs and lower cancer risks to boosted immune systems for baby and weight loss for mum. In *Cribsheet* she comes to the conclusion that while the data shows there are some short-term benefits for the baby, such as fewer allergic rashes and fewer gut and ear disorders, there are no proven long-term benefits, just one for the mother (lower risk of breast cancer) and one for the world (lower methane production from less dairy farming). The studies are flawed, she says, basically because they can't tell the difference between cause and effect.

Looking at this latest research, she told me: "It is more or less impossible to learn about the causal relationship between breastfeeding and cognitive performance from data like this. Mothers who choose to breastfeed, or to do so for longer, are different in many ways than those who do not, only some of which the researchers can see. These studies are missing, for example, things like paternal education and ability, school quality, investments in tutoring ... the list goes on." In other words, women who breastfeed might well be different from the women who don't breastfeed in lots of ways that aren't accounted for here. Is the mother who persisted in feeding when it was really painful and unrewarding more likely than me, say, to insist that children study harder for exams? If I bottle-fed my kid but got them a tutor would it have the same effect?

Better studies, Oster says — for example, ones that look at cases of siblings where one was breastfed and the other not — do not show any impact on cognitive outcomes. In addition, she says, when you really drill down into this study, the effects get smaller and smaller as they adjust for differences across families. "This both means that the effects are marginal at best, and it makes me worried that, as they adjust for more variables, the

## Banal reviews part 2

From time to time I revisit my mild obsession with people who review banal items

online. A £1.05 bag of Ocado onions? "Had to peel so many to get what I needed, annoying. Two stars." Quilted luxury loo roll? "Nothing luxury about it. Disappointed."

I had never, though, considered that people would review sand. But they do. Porthminster

Beach in St Ives has taken a right slagging on Tripadvisor for having the "wrong type". "Very cold water," writes Philip of Porthminster. (Can he sue?) "We had to walk ages to the sea because the tide was out and when we got there it was freezing and very

windy. The sand was awful... and very sticky. It got everywhere. I'm still finding bits today. Won't be back next year." Oh, don't say that, Philip. You sound such fun.

I'm not even joking. This stuff brings me far more pleasure than is normal or healthy.



# Not everyone agrees

GETTY IMAGES



Below: Francesca Steele with her son and daughter

effects would go away completely.” There are of course less measurable benefits to breastfeeding, which I do sometimes feel I missed out on, but they are more for me than my kids. Cost and convenience, for example. Anyone who thinks bottle-feeding is the easy way out has not spent hours sterilising bottles or preparing formula to leave the house. And there is a certain image of a serenely feeding mother that persists in my head despite my better judgment. I can imagine the cosiness, the feeling of triumph as my body feeds the child it has just made.

I have lots of friends who loved breastfeeding, although many wish they’d had more support in getting it right. One friend switched to formula feeding after a month with her first child, but found breastfeeding “just worked” with her second and breastfed him for two and a half years. “I have strong positive feelings for both formula and breastfeeding,” she says. And what of the flipside? Marianne Levy, the author of *Don’t Forget to Scream*, a book of essays on motherhood, exclusively breastfed her baby because of a dairy allergy and got barely any sleep. “It was hugely detrimental to my mental health,” she says. “The breastfeeding itself — great. The way it confined me to the house and tethered me to the baby, the assumption that this was my role now and that even to question it was sacrilege — extremely damaging.”

NHS England still advises that women exclusively breastfeed for the first six months, on the basis that it



“If I bottle-fed my kid but got them a tutor would it be the same?”

“has long-term benefits for your baby, lasting right into adulthood” and that “formula milk does not provide the same protection from illness and does not give you any health benefits”. This doesn’t feel very nuanced. We ought to be able to meet the needs of women who want to breastfeed but don’t feel there’s enough support or social acceptance (often cited as the reasons Britain has one of the lowest rates in the world) and of those who can’t or don’t want to breastfeed — and we must not make the latter group feel ashamed, particularly when the stats don’t necessarily appear to support it. This is part of a wider discussion about maternal autonomy that includes things such as ward support and vaginal births v caesarean sections. A lot of the “natural birthing” movement was a backlash to oppressive male doctoring that left women with little say. But perhaps now it’s time for the insistence on all things “natural” to be balanced out too. In the end, surely, it comes down to accurate information and choice.

Of those doctors in my NCT group, one went on to breastfeed exclusively but the other, like me, mixed-fed. In the group there was a wide range of feeding arrangements and a lot of valuable support. Our children are happy and well, and so are we. I don’t believe the data shows they’ll have vastly different outcomes. Although perhaps come back to us in eight years when they’re doing their GCSEs and we’ll see how frazzled the parents are. **Leading article, page 25**

## I got caught in a riptide and feared I would drown

By Alex O’Connell

In 2015 I went on holiday to a beach hotel outside Chania, Crete, with my partner, my girls, then eight and ten, and our two-year-old son. It was October half-term and it was glorious: white sand, blue sea and a mesmerising breakfast buffet.

Then one morning, while the rest of the family were still asleep, I decided to go for a swim by myself in the sea. I was playing against type, but I was aware that I should take advantage of a rare opportunity to have some, to use that ghastly phrase, “me time”.

I like the water and was a decent swimmer as a child, donning pyjamas in the pool to become the proud owner of a life-saving badge. Our dad lived in St Leonards-on-Sea, and as kids my brother and I hardened our soles by running along the pebbly beach and throwing ourselves into the English Channel. We would swim pretty far out, wipe the tar off our legs on our return (it was the 1970s) and restore ourselves with a Mr Whippy. Our parents taught us to never have our backs to the sea and to respect its power.

Somewhere during my adult life I think I must have forgotten that lesson. On Monday the inquest opened into the deaths of two young people in Bournemouth at the weekend. There was the “suggestion” that they had got caught in a riptide. The news made me think again of that autumn day in Crete.

It was the last week of the season, when some of the bars and amusements were already anticipating the winter shutdown, and there were only two other people on the beach — a sporty-looking Australian couple who ran into the water just before me. I followed. It was bathtub warm and seemingly mild. I swam out, not too far. I remember deciding to be cautious. I love a disaster movie. I wouldn’t call it a premonition but I was aware of where this narrative could go.

After about ten minutes, I started drifting. I realised I was further from the beach than I had thought. I swam hard, but not frantically, but I was moving further away from the shore with every stroke. Don’t panic. Don’t panic.

I did a spin and saw the Australian couple ten metres or so to my right. They were struggling too. They looked far stronger than me, with my post-birth flab and a loathing of the gym. If they were in trouble I was a goner. I remember thinking of the sleeping children, while willing my partner to amble down to the beach. I churned through the drowning stories I had read over the years and wondered at my stupidity and the ease with which life can be lost.

It’s a stonking cliché, but it all happens so fast. The adrenaline you feel from teetering close to the edge and the weariness that sets in is a killer cocktail. I regressed, screamed



and waved my arms, but mixed with the sound of the sea it came out no louder than a squeal.

Still, the Australians heard me. “We’re in a riptide! We need to swim out and around,” they shouted, one gesturing towards the vast blue behind us. Easier said than done. “I’m so tired,” I screamed. “I don’t know if I’m strong enough.”

I tried to follow them, but I was making little headway, by now in full panic mode. Then, perhaps five, ten minutes later, what my mum would have described as my guardian angel clocked on. I had turned back towards the beach and saw a distant figure on the sand. I shouted, waved and waved again and he saw me. My Cretan knight in shining trunks.

It probably took him only a few minutes to reach the British woman in the waves, but it felt like forever.

“I was making little headway, by now in full panic mode

He pushed his surfboard towards me and towed me in. Never have I felt more embarrassed, more grateful — or more like an old car heading for the scrap heap. While I collapsed on to the beach he went back in to help the Aussies.

Returning to the hotel my partner and the kids were at the breakfast buffet, loading M&Ms into Greek yoghurt. It would be impossible to convey what had happened, beyond saying it was a bit scary and I’d needed help. I didn’t try to explain at first for fear of bringing everyone else to death’s door.

But I was haunted by the experience and it took me hours to stop shaking. The aura of near-death hung around me for the rest of the holiday as the full story seeped out.

Since then I have educated myself in what to do in a riptide and told anyone who will listen: don’t try to swim against it, swim parallel to the shore until free of the rip and then head for the shore. Still, guardian angels take holidays too and I’m not sure I’d return to that stretch of coast.

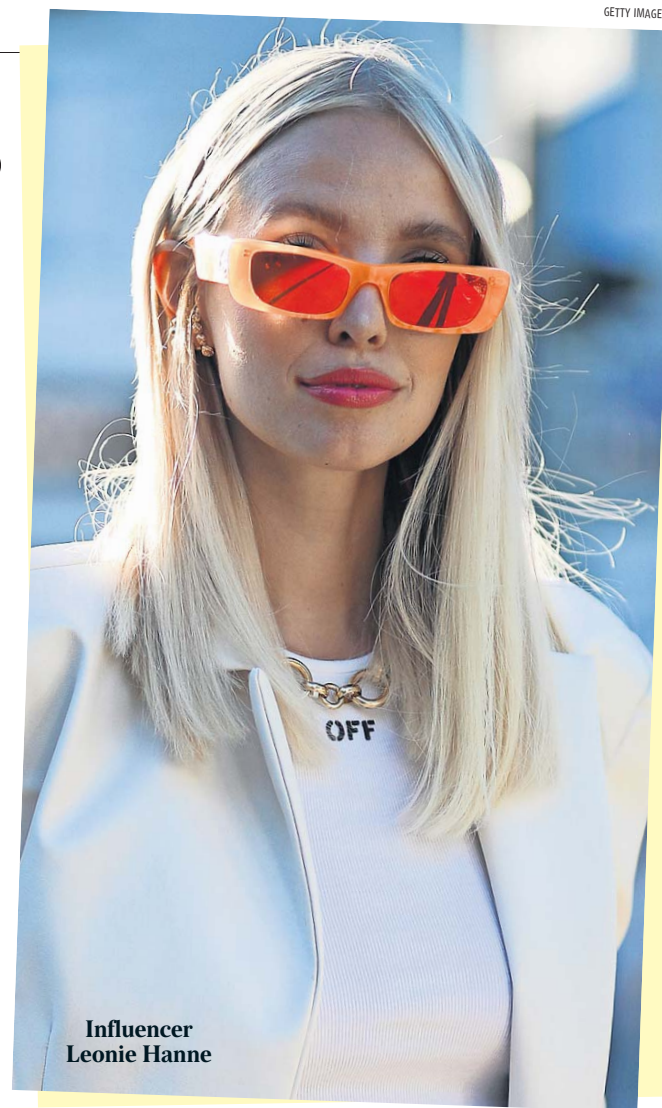




Influencer  
Caroline Daur

# Sunglasses — are you classic or quirky?

Among the fashion set you  
are either one or the other.  
Here's how to find a pair  
that suits. By **Anna Murphy**



Influencer  
Leonie Hanne

**T**here's something tribal about summer. Bikini or swimsuit? Suntan or sun ban? Boho or bo-no? Legs out or legs-remain-my-own-business-whatever-the-weather-thank-you-very-much?

And then there's the sunglasses thing. Are you all about the classics? Does a nice pair of cat eyes, the kind that would have graced the face of, say, Grace Kelly, make you miaow? Or is your response to such a predictable variety of, ahem, ocular UV protection more of a "meh"? Are you — like most of the fashion pack — team bonkers?

Which means what? It might mean lenses outsize enough to present as cool or comic, depending on your bias, or conversely so small as to come across as a tad — how shall I put this? — steampunk. Or it might mean more of a visor vibe — not so much steampunk as steaming your jumper drawers. That was me at the weekend. I will beat the moths this year if it kills me. I bought Polti's hardcore Vaporetto steamer a while back and it's great. This summer my moths — I use that possessive advisedly, alas — will *not* treat my jumper drawers as both their Marbs and their carbs.

I digress. Bonkers might also mean a bright colour and/or an unusual shape. I am all about this category, you may be unsurprised to learn. I like very big and very square, the better to divert attention from my very big and very round face, although I don't go in for weird colours. My lipstick provides that bit of the equation. My favourite at the moment is the 1970s-style Isla from Jimmy Fairly (£129, jimmyfairly.co.uk). However, I absolutely don't judge you if you don't have any truck with this approach.

More on that in a minute. Why is bonkers my predilection? Because I

have learnt from experience that there is no simpler way to change up your look and, in particular, to present as youthful than with your eyewear. I remember when I began attending the shows in my twenties one of the first things that struck me about the power brokers, who were decades older than me at the time, was — I kid you not — their sunglasses. They were team bonkers almost to a woman. Although the exception was a notable one in that she was and is the most famous sunglasses wearer in the world. Yup, Anna Wintour was the woman who was definitely not team bonkers, and she still isn't.

The opposite point of view to mine is also advanced by no less a fashion plate than the influencer Gitta Banko. Her present favourites are entirely reasonably proportioned round metal-framed Ray-Bans. "I find that unusual sunglasses distract too much from the outfit," she tells me.

And there is worse as far as she is concerned. "Unfortunately they often add a bit of a carnival touch to the look if you are not careful with your choice of glasses." Ouch. "This is definitely a case where 'less is more' applies." Double ouch. In short, it's horses for courses these days. Or rather, shades for maids. Which has to be good news. Plump for what you like and, ideally, what likes you. Though note that Banko can think like that as there is always something properly interesting going on with her clothes.

My first piece of advice would be to make sure that your chosen shape doesn't echo that of your face too closely. Square + square = even more square. Round + round = you can guess the rest.

Talking of squares and circles, some of the canniest styles out there somehow manage to square the circle by combining just enough



£99,  
jigsaw-online.com



£39.50,  
marksandspencer.com

**“Make sure that your chosen shape doesn't echo your face shape**

bonkersness with just enough classicism. The White Company's metal-framed Aire — a bit like Banko's Ray-Bans but amped up in size — is a case in point (£30, thewhitecompany.com).

Ray-Ban recently introduced its Mega range, with both frames and lenses slightly dialled up. I especially like the Mega Clubmaster, a take on the so-called browline style worn by Malcolm X (from £147, in assorted finishes, ray-ban.com). The brand's Reverse range also mixes old with new, using "reverse lenses" that follow the natural curve of the cheekbone. My pick is the Aviator Reverse (from £156, in assorted finishes). I think even Banko would be tempted.

One further piece of advice? Never go sunglasses shopping with someone with an oval face. They suit pretty much everything. Which is gutting to bear witness to if you suit almost nothing. I speak from experience.

A few more details to consider. Oversize or wrap styles will break up the strong lines of an oblong face. Glasses that taper towards the bottom balance out a strong jaw. If you have a heart-shaped face, conversely, avoid glasses that taper or are unduly wide.

On the high street my favourite stops for a range of sunglasses options are Marks & Spencer and Jigsaw, both of which offer up the wherewithal for you to go the full Gitta Banko or, er, Anna Murphy. M&S Collection's Acetate Cat Eye is actually another good compromise between the two in tortoiseshell, although definitely falls into the latter category in clear orange (£39.50, marksandspencer.co.uk).

Jigsaw's Maldon D-Frame cleaves to a more masculine classic shape, which in the past has been described by design experts as, wait for it,

trapezoidal. Again, it's available in straight-down-the-line tortoiseshell, but changes — becomes only a bit nutty, to be clear — in translucent sage green (£99, jigsaw-online.com). There's nothing on the fence about the same brand's bright opaque green Burley Cats Eyes (£99).

The Australian brand Le Specs is a fashion favourite, not least because it offers a great combination of quality and price. The visor-ish Reclaim, in sand or tortoiseshell, is so on-trend it hurts (£60, lespecs.com).

Prism London is another front-row pick and has such a range of cat eyes that it could be confused with a cattery, from the kitten-ishly petite Accra to big-cat Moscow (£225 and £210 respectively, prismlondon.com). If Dame Edna Everage were still around, however, it would be Prism's hot-pink square-framed Seattle in which she would be investing (£195).

Three more British brands to have on your radar. One is Retro Specced — get it? — which sells literal classics, as in actual vintage pairs (from £35, retrospecced.co.uk). Twenty per cent of its profits go to Vision Aid Overseas. Both Bird and Moncler London use bio-acetate for their frames, thus sidestepping the oil-based plasticisers found in traditional acetate. The former even has some frames made from wood, like the classy Finch (£125, findyourbirds.com).

Bio-acetate also happens to be biodegradable, so should you leave behind your Moncler Chilterns — a widely flattering rounded-off square, which I love in the deep blue marble finish — they might have degraded by the time you track them down (£280, available in a range of finishes, monclondon.com).

Although, let's face it, with sunnies this good, they are much more likely to have been swiped.

Instagram: @annagmurphy





£255, yolke.co.uk.  
Right: £79,  
nobodyschild.com

£285,  
rixolondon.com

£160,  
aspiga.com

# How smocking got cool

**Whimsical dresses feel out of kilter with the times. That's the appeal, says Anna Murphy**

I definitely thought my long-ago goodbye to little-girlhood was also a goodbye to shirred frocks. My favourite dress when I was five was pale pink and smocked; not the same as shirring, but a similar idea. Much as I loved it, it was clear I wasn't going to be wearing anything like that when I grew up and lived happily ever after.

Wrong! Turns out it was a case of "Hasta la vista, baby", to quote an individual who I'll wager doesn't understand the peculiar allure of shirring. (If it turns out Arnie has a penchant for a gathered bodice then truly the world is spinning too fast.)

I certainly couldn't have imagined that one of my favourite dresses at the age of 51 would be shirred, the so-called Isabel from Pink City Prints (from £180, pinkcityprints.com). This boutique British brand uses stunning textiles that have been block or screenprinted by hand by artisans in Jaipur, India. The Isabel has been a

bestseller since it launched, and is incarnated at present in four prints and three necklines, plus a top (£115).

As someone who can't get my skin out when it's properly sunny, it has become my go-to warm-weather wear, not to mention the first thing into my suitcase if I am going anywhere properly hot. (That lovely crisp-yet-light organic cotton!). The shirred bodice is central to its appeal, I think, because it cleaves to your body flatteringly yet — thanks to the elastic — is entirely comfortable. More affordable shirred options can be found at Mint Velvet, Nobody's Child, Zara and Cos.

The American operation Hill House Home has built its name on a shirred number that's become known as the Nap dress, so-called because, so the thinking goes, you can take a nap in it. Come to think of it, I have taken a nap or two in my Isabel, but given that Hill House Home has trademarked the term "nap dress" — I know! — I am probably not allowed to say that. Such is its appeal here that the brand has just launched a UK website, which showcases the ever-more myriad variations on the



£129, mintvelvet.co.uk

theme of nap. Nell Diamond, the brand's founder, describes her aesthetic as "Victorian ghost". I for one find it hard to imagine Susan Hill's Woman in Black clad in the off-the-shoulder Catalina (£215, hillhousehome.co.uk). She no doubt wouldn't have been impressed either with the super-simple boat-necked sleeveless Cosima in white broderie or a white-on-brown Sixties-style floral (£185 and £145 respectively, hillhousehome.co.uk), but that's my comparatively minimalist pick amid a world of froth. By all means feel free to go the full Bo Peep, flouncy detailing and all, should you so desire. My sheep crook is in storage.

Which brings me to what is going on here, semiotics wise. I would argue that my taste for shirring is pretty straightforward. And that's because my taste in shirring is, as discussed, pretty straightforward. Yet there is to my mind something wilfully prelapsarian about some of the more — how shall I put this? — whimsical incarnations. There's no cost of living crisis in the meadows in which these frocks seem designed to be worn. And I suspect that is part of the appeal.

## Ick! Don't try this at work

### Any level of beachwear

Kaftans? No. Cossie visible under your strappy dress because you're "popping to the lido at lunch"? No. Coming back with wet hair? Stop it. A note on shorts — smart and to the knee are fine. Denim? No.

### Exposed toes

Jennifer Lawrence might have worn flip-flops on the Croisette, but you know what she had? A driver! You know what you're not? A movie star at Cannes. Is it OK to schlomp around in your Havaianas on public transport and then treat us all to your black-soled husks? It is not. It's a rare specimen of man that does not have gross toenails. And ditto cracked heels. Sporadic trips to the podiatrist aside, toes should be covered at all costs. For breeziness, a fisherman's sandal is acceptable (with a linen or otherwise chino trouser). Ancient Greek Sandals has a pair called Homer — I'd go for black — (£190, ancientgreek sandals.com), which offer a pleasingly intellectual way out of the conundrum.

### Sunglasses on head

I once worked with a sub-editor (code name "Top Gun") who, like a sort of pound shop Anna Wintour, insisted on wearing aviator sunglasses inside during sunny periods. Yes, there were blinds. But nothing gives off a more "I think I'm too cool for this finance meeting" vibe than pushing back your highlights with your shades. Oh dear, did we interrupt your hot girl walk back from lunch? Is all this getting in the way of your Instagram content?

### SPF

Yes, of course you should cover your skin in factor 50. But should you stand at your desk, leg hiked up on to your chair slathering it on? No.

### Flesh

That awkward brush past when making tea? Clammy flesh-pressing has no place in a civilised place of business. Men! Are you tempted to undo that extra shirt button to reveal a dash of chest hair? I appreciate Harry Styles et al have confused the optics here but, to be clear, don't do this. Women! I may be old-fashioned, but underwear should be concealed. I think an exposed arm is OK if your neckline is modest. Cleavage and sweaty boobs? Not HR advised.

### Personal air con

Aka the SAD lamps of summer. Annoyingly loud mini fans and trying out TikTok ice hacks (placing a bowl of ice in front of your fan — spoiler alert, it doesn't work) is for WFH, not communal desks.

### 'Relocating for August'

Recently overheard and not kidding: "The family will be rewilding for August in Provence." You know you're the boss when you can comfortably sack off your minions back in Blighty for four weeks of remote working ("we're all digital nomads now!") from your luxury Ibiza villa. No really, everyone's thrilled for you.

Victoria Moss



## fashion

# Forget tracksuits, it's all about matchy-matchy at the airport

**Thought dressing up to travel was old hat? It's back — everything must co-ordinate, says**

**Anna Murphy**

I have spent a lot of time in airports recently and I have a strange phenomenon to report. People are dressing up. By no means everyone, to be clear. There is still plenty of security-check schlubbing going on. But I can report a definite uptick in tailoring and heels. (The mid-heel only. Things haven't gone completely insane.)

Most noticeable is a whole new level of matchy-matchy in the form of co-ordinating outfits and luggage. That's right. Merely matching your handbag to your outfit is low-level shizzle in the BA Gold lounge at Heathrow Terminal 5 these days. Ideally, one's whole outfit now has to — how best to put this? — resonate.

There were you thinking it was challenging enough to work out what to put in your suitcase. Now it would seem you have to work out if your suitcase goes with your blazer. And, yes, concomitantly, actually to wear a blazer, even if once upon a time you were strictly a tracksuit-only kind of girl at 30,000ft. (Don't worry. You can still wear track pants on your bottom half. For summer I also like Rise & Fall's elasticated-waist cotton poplin trousers in beige or black, £75, [riseandfall.co](http://riseandfall.co).)

It's not just a posh class thing, either. I was cheek by jowl with a woman in top-to-toe-to-trolley-case pink at Pret a Manger in Terminal 5 the other day. It felt plain wrong that she hadn't ordered the Five Berry Bowl. If you are going to take things that far, you can't suddenly take your eye off the ball and chow down on a Salted Caramel Dessert Pot, for goodness' sake.

This month brings the UK launch of the Australian luggage brand Nere, whose whole MO is luggage as fashion, and which takes colour very seriously indeed. Felicity McGahan, who heads up Nere, sums up its genesis as follows: "I saw an incredibly stylish woman waiting for her transport outside her hotel," she says. "Her outfit took my breath away, yet she was surrounded by a set of black luggage that contradicted her sense of style. This became a key impetus to create Nere as a fresh concept in travel; to inspire travellers to travel fashionably."

Travelling fashionably? Should we really be aiming so high? How about travelling comfortably? Not to mention, and I speak as someone



**The influencer and model Didi Stone, the actress Virginie Ledoyen and the actress Gwyneth Paltrow**



COVER AND BELOW: GETTY IMAGES

who recently had a flight delayed by four hours, on time? The very idea of — warning: more McGahan terminology incoming — "fashion travel" might make you roll your eyes in despair at the relentless commercialisation of everything, from pyjamas to sports bras. Is nothing sacred, not even our suitcases?

Then again, it might make you very happy indeed. Clearly there are a lot of people in the second camp. Nere's Antipodean sales reached four million items in the first seven months since it opened for business in 2022. Its bestselling colour is — wait for it — pink. And there are, just so you know, three pinks to choose from (suitcases from £119, [neretravel.co.uk](http://neretravel.co.uk)).

There is a practical element here too. Honestly. I still occasionally have flashbacks to when my black suitcase had to be found in a room of approximately 7,219 other black suitcases in time to make a Cessna to St Barts. (I know, I know. First-world problems.) That was two decades ago. I haven't used a black suitcase since.

As for airport dress-up more generally, it is not as if this is actually new, of course. What we are seeing is a return to those early glory days of commercial aviation in the 1950s, when everything about flying was exotic and you dressed accordingly.

**“Merely matching your handbag to your outfit is low-level shizzle**

I wouldn't go as far as to describe getting on a plane as exotic any more. Chance would be a fine thing. Yet the fact is that after that Covid-induced pause, and with the prices we are now paying, it does feel more like going out-out than it used to, even if we still want to be able to press recline without hesitation.

Which brings me to the development that to my mind is much more exciting than anything luggage can offer. That you can look dressy while still feeling comfortable courtesy of the wonderment that is stretch tailoring. Boden's stretch jersey blazer, in black, navy or emerald, is a case in point (reduced to £88 from £110, [boden.co.uk](http://boden.co.uk)). Paul Smith's A Suit to Travel In, available in black, cobalt and burgundy, may not contain stretch but is still easy to wear and crease-resistant (from £595 for the jacket, £340 for the trousers, [paulsmith.co.uk](http://paulsmith.co.uk)). And, as I said, just a blazer alone would do it, or some on-point co-ordination. Although on your head be it if you attempt the full Gwyneth in head-to-toe white.

The bad news, as confirmed by the Times travel desk, is that however much effort you make, it's still not going to get you an upgrade. "That was always apocryphal," says Jenny Coad, our associate travel editor. "It still is."





In the Style's Adam Frisby in 2019 with Love Island's Francesca Allen, Amy Hart, Joanna Chimonides, Anna Vakili and Yewande Biala. Right: a Boohoo event in Sydney in 2020



# The rise and fall of a fast-fashion phenomenon

Conspicuous consumption is no longer cool. Is it all over for cheap, disposable style, asks **Harriet Walker**

I have sat on the front row in Paris and New York, met artisans in Istanbul and jewellery-makers in Bangkok, but it was a trip to an industrial estate in Salford in 2019 that showed me where the real action was. From there, its doorway and reception walls wreathed in Insta-tastic fake pink flowers, the fast fashion brand In the Style boomed while the Great British high street was shutting its best-known shops. When I met the company's 32-year-old founder, Adam Frisby, he had just turned down an offer from Topshop to sell his pieces in its stores and was about to launch a TV show.

ITS's USP was cheap clothes (£10 for a dress, £20 for a blazer), marketed on social media and modelled by the stars of reality TV shows such as *Towie*, *Geordie Shore* and *Love Island*. Lockdown was a boom time for the brand and others like it (once they pivoted from cling to comfy), while it finished off older names that had been limping on. In March 2021, a month

after Topshop and the rest of Arcadia was bought by Asos, ITS was valued at £105 million.

Yet the company's stock has fallen 99.6 per cent in the past 12 months. After profit warnings and a legal wrangle over the business's origins, Frisby — who left school at 15 with no qualifications and started ITS ten years ago with a redundancy cheque — yesterday announced plans to enter compulsory liquidation.

Around him, the retail landscape — not to mention the planet — is littered with the fallout from other fast-fashion fatalities, brands famous for pumping out clothes of a quality that charity shops cannot sell on and so full of plastics they are impossible to recycle. Brands that have made their owners billionaires: Boohoo's Mahmud Kamani has a private jet, and Missguided's Nitin Passi, once worth £250 million, drives a £300,000 branded pink Lamborghini.



An Asos advertising campaign

Boohoo, valued at £570 million in 2020, reported a £91 million annual loss last month. Administrators are also picking through the remains of Missguided — famous for its £1 bikini, the brand was found in 2017 to have been paying workers in Leicester £3 an hour and was bought last year by Mike Ashley's Frasers Group. Even at the giant Chinese tat merchant Shein profits are down from \$1.1 billion in 2021 to \$700 million in 2022. It isn't just the newbies: Asos reported a £290 million loss before tax for the six months to the end of February.

And on Thursday the EU voted in favour of a raft of regulations to force companies such as these to operate more sustainably — preventing them burning unsold stock, for instance.

Is this the end of fast fashion? "I'm hopeful the tide is turning," says Lauren Bravo, the author of *How to Break Up with Fast Fashion* and *Preloved*, a novel about charity shop finds. "But as much as I'd like to dance on the graves of Boohoo and In the Style, you can bet companies who exploit garment workers when the going is good will let them suffer when things turn bad."

Fast fashion used to refer to how quickly brands could get items into the shop; in recent years it has referred to the speed with which they are thrown away. Boohoo, ITS et al thrived on a wear-once selfie culture that grew with Instagram as cameraphones became ubiquitous on nights out. In 2015 a survey by Barnardo's found that one in seven women wouldn't rewear a dress they had been photographed in. One UK fashion company used to teach its buyers that a dress would be worn seven times and remain in the owner's wardrobe for five weeks.

That seems to be changing: disposability isn't cool any more and conspicuous consumption feels out of

whack. Most of the sector's woes have been blamed on the cost of living crisis. A report in October from the secondhand designer site Vestiaire Collective also found that "pre-loved" items are set to account for almost a third of shoppers' wardrobes this year. Resale apps such as Depop and Vinted are booming.

Another bellwether is *Love Island*, which last year swapped its main sponsor to eBay. Previously clothes horses for fast fashion's briefest designs, the islanders have this week been dressed in secondhand Prada and Versace from the site. Ebay is pushing back against what it is calling "single-wear summer" after 24 per cent of shoppers recently admitted to binning items they bought for a trip once they got home.

"There is a much greater awareness of the environmental damage of fast fashion," says Mary Creagh, the former Labour MP and chairwoman of Ethical Trading Initiative. Her 2019 *Fixing Fashion* report, part of the Environmental Audit Committee's remit, is the most downloaded in parliament's history. All of its proposals for regulation were rejected by Theresa May's government despite many in the industry — including Frisby, when we spoke — agreeing with the need for them. "We've seen the death of high street brands that employ people and pay rates to their local councils," Creagh says. "But Shein and some Amazon brands don't pay a penny of corporation tax in this country, and they feed on people's insecurities and desire to look like celebrities with clothes that are often unwearable when they arrive."

The fashion editor mantra of "buy less, buy better" may sound preachy during a cost of living crisis, but it seems as though fast fashion customers are finally coming to their own conclusions.

Twitter: @harrywalker1



times2

# Can Apple turn this into a must-have?

**The company made us hanker after iPads and iPhones. Will VR goggles be next, asks Chris Stokel-Walker**

Sitting in the California sun watching videos on a giant screen might not seem like your idea of a good time, but for tech bros Apple's annual WWDC (Worldwide Developers Conference) is like Christmas and all your birthdays combined.

WWDC was even more eagerly anticipated this year for tech's worst-kept secret: Apple's unveiling of a mixed-reality headset. But what is it, and what could make it succeed?

**What am I meant to be getting excited about?**

The Apple Vision Pro is the iPhone and iPad maker's attempt to revolutionise how you live. Freeing you from a screen, and "seamlessly blending the real world with the digital world", according to Tim Cook, Apple's chief executive, you will strap on a headset and be able to interact with a range of apps.

The technology is commonly called "mixed reality", blending real-life, augmented and virtual reality (AR and VR), although Apple has tried to rebrand it as "spatial computing". Place the headset on, and you will see your front room as you would without wearing the device.

However, overlaid on your field of vision will be a series of buttons, similar to those on your iPhone, that you can select to open up everything from your email inbox to streaming services.



**The Apple Vision Pro**

**“Control it Minority Report style, waving and pinching the air**

**How do I open my emails if there's no screen to touch?**

One of the key ways of interacting, given that it's a headset over your eyes, is vision. You can look at a search bar in an app or a web browser, for instance, and the Vision Pro will recognise that you are trying to engage with it. You then speak your request, similar to how you do for an Amazon Echo, and it will type in the text. Other interactions shown in the video can be done *Minority Report*-style with your hands, waving and pinching the air to move items around.

**What does it look like?**

An oversized set of ski goggles, but cool. It's sleek, black and shiny, as you would expect from the company that brought us the iPhone and the Apple Watch. "It seems to be in a different league to the plasticky headsets from rivals," says Leo Gebbie, principal analyst for connected devices

at CCS Insight, a tech analysis firm. We'll have more on those rivals later.

**Go on then: how much is it?**

\$3,499, or £2,800. When adjusted for inflation, that's about five times as much as the iPhone was when it debuted in 2007.

**Why so expensive?**

Because it's an Apple device, for one thing. It's down to what's inside the device too. Each eye has a display in front of it with 23 million pixels in — more than most high-definition TVs. And there are 12 cameras, five sensors and six microphones hidden within. All that costs money.

**How is it better than rivals?**

Meta, the parent company of Facebook (and Instagram and WhatsApp), unveiled its own Apple spoiler last week called the Meta Quest 3, the third generation of its

mixed-reality goggles. (In an unfortunate bit of branding, Meta is running Google ads for Father's Day saying "Your father will love Quest 2", the preceding version.)

"Apple is really good at taking previous work, remixing it and turning it into something thoughtful and well realised, and they've done that again with this," Kate Bevan, a technology writer and broadcaster, says. "It's notable they didn't say 'metaverse' once in this," she adds. "They recognised the hype cycle has moved on." Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, was so smitten with the metaverse that he renamed his entire company Meta in 2021.

You may also have heard, years back, of the Oculus, which were similar glasses. Oculus, the manufacturer, was bought by Meta in 2014. Snapchat has its own Snapchat Spectacles, which can take photos, while Microsoft's HoloLens mixed-reality goggles still exist, even though the second generation is nearly four years old.

**When's the Vision Pro coming out?**

Apple wouldn't get more specific than saying the Vision Pro would be available "early next year". That's a similarly long lead time to when the first iPhone was announced in January 2007 and when it was released in June that year.

**Isn't it just nerdy?**

Yes, unabashedly — although given the company that's making it, don't discount it becoming mainstream.

**How likely is it to succeed?**

One of the challenges is that few people want to wear clunky headsets. Even less-intrusive VR glasses have flopped. Wearers of Google Glass, unobtrusive spectacles with a camera attached that were released by the tech giant a decade ago, gained the impolite nickname "glassholes" for how they looked. Still, Apple is Apple — and you wouldn't want to bet against it.

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## Nicholas Cullinan takes **Richard Morrison** around the new-look NPG before it reopens

Dashing from room to room, impatiently lifting protective sheets off priceless canvases like a child unwrapping toys, maintaining a stream of scholarly banter and only occasionally glancing back to see if the perspiring man from The Times is keeping pace, Nicholas Cullinan gives every impression of existing in an art-filled whirlwind.

That's not far from the truth. In 2003 he was a humble "visitor services assistant" in this very building — the National Portrait Gallery in St Martin's Place, London. "When I was an art student at the Courtauld, down the road, I would work here from 6pm to 9pm on Thursday and Friday evenings to earn some cash," he says. Only 12 years later he was appointed its director. In the years between he had risen like a rocket through the curatorial ranks of Tate Modern and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. And since taking over the NPG in 2015 he has devised, planned and now almost seen through a once-in-a-generation transformation of the place, to be revealed to the public on June 22 when the gallery reopens after a three-year closure.

The cost was originally supposed to be £35.5 million. In fact it has come in at just over £41 million. But that overspend, Cullinan says, was deliberate, after the gallery received an "extra" £10 million donation from Leonard Blavatnik, the industrialist who has become Britain's most generous arts benefactor. "Doing what we wanted to do for £35 million was always going to be tight," Cullinan says. "The extra money from the Blavatnik foundation enabled us to concentrate on quality."

And it came on top of other big donations — notably from the NPG's chairman David Ross, the former Carphone Warehouse boss who "facilitated" Boris Johnson's holiday in Mustique. Like Blavatnik and several other donors, Ross now has a part of the building named after himself.

All of which suggests that, at a time when other arts organisations are in despair about how little money they can raise from Britain's super-rich, Cullinan has the Midas touch. And yet he's discriminating as well. Under his watch the NPG was one of the first big arts organisations to turn down money from the Sackler family after they were discredited for their association with addictive opioids. And, rightly or wrongly, he ended the gallery's long association with BP.

"With 70 per cent of our income coming from commercial activities, sponsorships and donations, there has to be a very good reason to decline donations," he says. "That said, we also have to act in the public good. But look, we raised £41 million without compromising. You can do both."

In fact, Cullinan has raised much more than that. As we enter the 18th-century gallery a magnificent,



# The man who gave the portrait gallery a £41m makeover

full-length portrait of a slightly familiar Polynesian gentleman is being placed right in the centre. "Is that ... the £50 million Joshua Reynolds painting?" I gasp, like a starstruck autograph hunter. "It is," Cullinan replies. "*Portrait of Mai*. One of the greatest, if not the greatest, paintings we now have in the collection."

And, he might have added, the subject of one of the greatest deals ever pulled off by a British gallery director. By itself the NPG could raise only half the £50 million valuation of the painting when it was put up for sale. So, in an arrangement that was unprecedented for a UK gallery, Cullinan negotiated a 50/50 purchase with the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, finalised six weeks ago. That involved persuading the National Heritage Memorial Fund (which had pledged £10 million towards the purchase) that a sharing arrangement with an American museum was better than the UK losing the painting altogether.

"I worked on the deal for two years," Cullinan discloses. "I felt so strongly that, even if we failed, we had to attempt to keep it in the country. After all, it was painted by Reynolds just down the road from here."

**Nicholas Cullinan, artistic director of the National Portrait Gallery. Below: Portrait of Mai by Joshua Reynolds**



**The National Portrait Gallery reopens on June 22, [npg.org.uk](http://npg.org.uk)**

In The Sunday Times at the weekend Lord Rothschild, the 87-year-old doyen of arts philanthropy, was sniffy about that £50 million price tag, declaring it to be very high for a Reynolds. Cullinan isn't bothered by that. "Right now the story is that it's very expensive, but in 100 years, if we hadn't saved it people would only remember that we let it leave the country."

How will the two museums share it? "The UK gets it first, for three years," Cullinan replies. "It will probably spend about a year in the NPG then travel round the country. Then it will go to Los Angeles for three years. After that it will alternate every five, seven and eventually ten years."

Although Cullinan denies that he negotiated the purchase of *Portrait of Mai* for symbolic reasons ("we want to broaden our appeal through the quality of what we offer, not by box-ticking"), there's no doubt that a portrait of one of 18th-century Britain's most famous immigrants, brought here by Captain Cook, fits in well with one of his aims: dispelling the impression that the gallery's walls are overwhelmingly crammed with portraits of dead white men. Among the new works to be unveiled on June 22, for instance, will be a tapestry of four refuse collectors

at work during the 2020 Covid lockdown, and an eight metre-long mural of 130 inspirational women. And Cullinan, whose first curated exhibition at the NPG was focused on Michael Jackson, has gone down the pop route for one of the first big shows after reopening: Paul McCartney's snaps of the Beatles in their early days.

He has also, as we learnt from The Times on Saturday, reined back on royal portraiture. Although I can't help noticing that Jamie Corbeth's glossy 2022 portrait of the Prince and Princess of Wales looms large, we now know that Nicky Philipps's 2010 portrait of William and the Duke of Sussex won't be exhibited. Was that suppressed in response to pressure from "on high"? After all, the Princess of Wales is the NPG's patron.

"No, we would never do that," Cullinan replies emphatically. "We have 250,000 portraits in the collection. We can show only a tiny fraction of them. But look, this isn't a rehang for the next 20 years. Even from the autumn we will start rotating things. There are tons of portraits we want to include but couldn't this time

**“We aren't passing fashionable moral judgment on historical figures**

round, and they will start coming in — including that one.”

He is equally keen to dispel the rumour that the rehang will incorporate a cull of portraits of slave owners and suchlike, and the rewriting of labels to point out the sins of our forerunners. "No, no, no, no!" he exclaims. "We have been planning this rehang for eight years, long before the start of any of those discussions that have now become so heated. The labels will be informative and balanced. This place tells the history of Britain through individuals, and with every individual there is light and shade. We aren't in the business of passing fashionable moral judgment on historical figures. We know our visitors can form their own opinions."

What Cullinan really hopes, however, is that the new-look building itself is a hit. I write "new look", but apart from the relocated and grand new entrance, and a much expanded learning centre, a lot of what he shows me — vistas restored, mosaics renewed, blocked-up windows and doorways reopened — is basically today's architect (Jamie Fobert) resurrecting in glowing colours the elegant and expansive vision of Ewan Christian, the man who designed the building, which opened in 1896.

"We have adopted an 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' mentality," Cullinan says. "It's really about stepping back for the first time since 1896 and reviewing the building as a whole, rather than sticking new wings on to it. I hope we've done something that has coherence, that makes the place feel livelier and that puts the NPG on a sound footing for a while."

And if that is achieved, will Cullinan move on? "The first thing I'm going to do after the reopening is have a long, restful summer holiday," he says with a laugh. "I haven't thought beyond that."

I bet he has.  
**Thunderer, page 22**







# A welcome return for TV’s warmest friendship

## James Jackson TV review



**Somebody Somewhere**  
Sky/Now  
★★★★☆

**History’s Greatest Mysteries**  
Sky History/Now  
★★★☆☆

TV-wise, what is the opposite of *Succession*? (Yes, yes, you thought the world had finally shut up about that series — the number of articles about it having surpassed the number of viewers — but bear with me.) Perhaps an HBO comedy drama where the characters live in Manhattan, Kansas, not Manhattan, New York City; where they travel in used cars, not private helicopters; where they speak normally, not in hyper-smart snark.

**Somebody Somewhere**, in short. Acclaimed by in-the-know types for its first series, this under-the-radar comedy-drama is back for a second to follow its ordinary small-town friends and family, none of whom have a bank balance larger than the national debt, and whose problems are dealt with by a few drinks or a silly rendition of Laura Branigan’s *Gloria*.

Middle-aged Sam (Bridget Everett) remains the most unstylish hero on TV, her friendship with her gay best pal Joel (Jeff Hiller) the most believable. As we rejoin them eyeing passers-by on a power walk in the park, or find them later talking to each on the phone from their respective loos while suffering diarrhoea, it’s clear they’re now like a platonic married couple.

They don’t have much glamour in their lives. A full two minutes of dialogue-free action sees Sam clearing stuff from her late father’s barn, yet even that is moving given the unspoken emotion underpinning it.

Sam’s choir teacher advises her to “keep singing” through life’s brickbats, and they come at her hard. Even her sister Tricia is constantly snippy towards her. “Joel, I do have to compliment you,” Trish says, in a semi-joke, “you almost make Sam fun. Almost.” And they all kind of laugh, because this is naturalism.

These are people like anyone. In being about life’s small wins, this is, in



Sam (Bridget Everett) and Joel (Jeff Hiller) take a power walk

some ways, like a more real version of *The Office US* if that show swapped the mock-doc thing for c-words. Or, to go back to *Succession*, it’s bittersweet rather than bitter, the values it aspires to — friendship, supporting each other — a lot more salutary than bullying and betrayal. Keep singing, Sam.

Bombshell of the night came in **History’s Greatest Mysteries with Laurence Fishburne**, which offered the news that — and please be warned, spoiler coming — Nessie ... is unlikely to be a monster. The famous “surgeon’s photo” of a small floating toy was not of a giant beast patrolling the vast loch.

All very disappointing, but one thing proved here was how certain stories are so irresistible we don’t mind being told them over and over. You just might want a bit of the atmospheric romance of the Nessie myth rather than the feel of a Wikipedia page being trotted out at breakneck pace. It took until halfway for things to start to really gel with the subject matter, when we heard the theory of giant conger eels, partly because the programme’s IQ often felt about the same as an eel’s.

Still, as the contributors kept saying, you never know! “One day we may get the perfect picture or specimen,” one optimist said. “Or maybe a strange long-necked creature will just walk out of the loch and say ‘hello!’ [and] it’ll be time to break open the champagne.” It presents a curious image.

### Radio choice Ben Dowell



### All Things Must Pass: 50 Years On

Radio 4 Extra, 8pm

Another chance to hear Nitin Sawhney explore the impact of George Harrison’s first solo work, the triple album *All Things Must Pass*. Launched in November 1970, it achieved numerous landmarks. Apart from being the first triple album released by a single act, it became the most successful album released by a former Beatle. Despite there being no supporting tour, the “quiet” Beatle’s work topped the combined sales of McCartney’s *Ram* and Lennon’s *Imagine* that followed in its wake. The single *My Sweet Lord* also became a worldwide hit on the strength of its radio exposure alone.

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**6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast  
**10.00** Matt Chorley. Political interviews and conversation  
**1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. A fresh look at the issues shaping our world  
**3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Live discussion on the day’s news  
**5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. A full round-up of today’s developments  
**7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Informed debate with leading figures  
**8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation  
**10.00** Carole Walker. The main stories of the day  
**1.00am** Stories of Our Times  
**1.30** Red Box  
**2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

**Radio 2**  
FM: 88-90.2 MHz  
**6.30am** The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show  
**9.30** Vernon Kay. Comedian Jack Whitehall chooses his Tracks of My Years  
**12.00** Jeremy Vine  
**2.00pm** Scott Mills  
**4.00** Sara Cox  
**6.30** Sara Cox’s Half Wower  
**7.00** Jo Whitley’s Shiny Happy Playlist  
**7.30** Jo Whitley  
**9.00** The Folk Show with Ricky Ross. Scottish band Gnoss play live in the Salford studio  
**10.00** Trevor Nelson’s Magnificent 7. Seven of Rhythm Nation’s biggest hits, uplifting tunes and essential throwbacks  
**10.30** Trevor Nelson’s Rhythm Nation. A mix of R’n’B and soulful tunes  
**12.00** OJ Borg  
**3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r)  
**4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

**Radio 3**  
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz  
**6.30am** Breakfast  
Petroc Trelawny presents. Including **7.00**, **8.00** News, **7.30**, **8.30** News headlines  
**9.00** Essential Classics  
Georgia Mann presents a selection of music and features, including familiar favourites  
**12.00** **Composer of the Week: Rossini** (1792-1868)  
Donald Macleod follows the composer as he escapes Naples and finds fame in European cities such as Vienna, Paris and London. Rossini (*Mosè in Egitto No. 24 Recitativo: “Eccone in salvo, o figli!”; No. 25 Pregoiera: “Dal tuo stellato soglio”; “Ma qual fragor!”; “Son fuggiti! Oh ciel, che mirol!”; Semiramide: “Serenata e vaghi rai”; “Bel raggio lusignhier”; “Dolce pensiero”; “Mitrane! E che rechi?”; “Serbami ognor”; “Alle più calde immagini”; and Le siège de Corinthe*; Overture)

**1.00pm** **Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert**  
Sarah Walker presents performances from Canada’s music festivals, including Rose Naggar-Tremblay (contralto) and Andara Quartet’s performance of Respighi’s *Il Tramonto*, and Marc-André Hamelin (piano), Kerson Leong (violin), Violaine Melancon (violin), Marina Thibeault (viola) and Marc Coppey’s (cello) performance of Brahms’ Piano Quintet. Respighi (*Il Tramonto* — poemetto lirico for voice and string quartet); and Brahms (Piano Quintet in F minor Op.34)  
**2.00** **Afternoon Concert**  
Concert performances from across Europe, including Mozart’s Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor in Salzburg, Debussy’s *La Mer* from Dublin and Ravel’s *La Valse* in Tenerife. Mozart (*La Clemenza di Tito*, overture); Strauss (*Morgen*); Trad (*Lamento, Ronda doble, Rotundellus*); Debussy (*La Mer*); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor); Trad (*Foliada, Ductia, Pode por Santa Maria*); and Ravel (*La Valse*)  
**4.00** **Choral Evensong**  
From Bury Parish Church with the HeartEdge Manchester Choral Scholars on the eve of the Feast of Corpus Christi  
**5.00** **In Tune**  
Katie Derham interviews John Bridcut  
**7.00** **Classical Mixtape**  
Featuring a German dance by Franz Schubert  
**7.30** **Radio 3 in Concert**  
The BBC Singers, principal guest conductor Owain Park and the saxophonist Christian Forshaw perform as part of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, featuring music by William Byrd. Tallis arr. Recorded 26 May 2023. Forshaw (*Te lucis ante terminum*); Byrd (*Ave Verum Corpus*); Hildegard von Bingen (*Alleluia, O virga mediatrice*); Forshaw (*O nata lux*); Hildegard von Bingen (*O Eucharisti leta via*); Roderick Williams (*Ave Verum Corpus Re-Imagined*); and Byrd arr. Forshaw (*Movements from The Great Service*)  
**10.00** **Free Thinking**  
Chris Harding and his guests discuss perceptions of ownership and identity, and how they are influenced by the apparent power of artificial intelligence  
**10.45** **The Essay: Journeys to the Grave**  
Helen Mort ventures up a Yorkshire hill to find Sylvia Plath’s vandalised gravestone, a battleground for those claiming the American poet’s contested legacy  
**11.00** **Night Tracks**  
An adventurous, immersive soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between  
**12.30am** **Through the Night**

**Radio 4**  
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz  
**5.30am** News Briefing  
**5.43** Prayer for the Day  
**5.45** Farming Today  
**5.58** Tweet of the Day  
**6.00** Today  
With Amol Rajan and Nick Robinson  
**8.31** (LW) **Yesterday in Parliament**  
**9.00** **More or Less**  
Numbers and statistics used in everyday life  
**9.30** **Living on the Edge**  
Richard King visits Bottle Alley (1/10)  
**9.45** (LW) **Daily Service**  
**9.45** **Book of the Week: Blue Machine — How the Ocean Shapes Our World**  
By Helen Czerski (3/5)  
**10.00** **Woman’s Hour**  
Nuala McGovern presents the magazine  
**11.00** **Wedgwood: A Very British Tragedy**  
The story of Josiah Wedgwood (r)  
**11.30** **History’s Secret Heroes**  
Helena Bonham Carter shares the story of Major Charity Adams  
**12.01pm** (LW) **Shipping Forecast**  
**12.04** You and Yours  
**1.00** **The World at One**  
**1.45** **Close Encounters**  
Leading figures champion a picture from the National Portrait Gallery’s collection (3/10)  
**2.00** **The Archers** (r)  
**2.15** **Drama: Born to Be Wilde — The Warhol Years**  
By Marcy Kahan. The young Oscar Wilde, who has not yet written anything of note, embarks on an American tour, determined to be famous. With Max Bennett  
**3.00** **Money Box Live**  
Financial questions  
**3.30** **All in the Mind**  
Claudia Hammond explores the limits and potential of the human mind (7/10) (r)  
**4.00** **Thinking Allowed**  
Thought-provoking issues. Last in the series  
**4.30** **The Media Show**  
Ros Atkins presents the latest news from the fast-changing media world  
**5.00** PM  
**5.54** (LW) **Shipping Forecast**  
**6.00** **Six O’Clock News**  
**6.30** **Room 101 with Paul Merton**  
With Steph McGovern (3/6)  
**7.00** **The Archers**  
Tom reaches the end of his tether  
**7.15** **Front Row**  
Arts programme  
**8.00** **The Moral Maze**  
Ethical issues (3/10)

**9.00** **Bad Blood: The Story of Eugenics**  
The story of eugenics (2/6) (r)  
**9.30** **The Media Show**  
Ros Atkins presents the latest news (r)  
**10.00** **The World Tonight**  
News round-up with James Coomarasamy  
**10.45** **Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors**  
By Tan Twan Eng (8/10)  
**11.00** **Twayna Mayne: Black Woman**  
The comedian Twayna Mayne explores gender and sexuality (3/4) (r)  
**11.15** **The John Moloney Show**  
John ponders space, time and life (3/4) (r)  
**11.30** **Today in Parliament**  
**12.00** **News and Weather**  
**12.30am** **Book of the Week: Blue Machine — How the Ocean Shapes Our World** (r)  
**12.48** **Shipping Forecast**  
**1.00** **As BBC World Service**

**Radio 4 Extra**  
Digital only  
**8.00am** Hancock’s Half Hour  
**8.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue  
**9.00** Nature Table  
**9.30** Robin and Wendy’s Wet Weekends  
**10.00** The Last September  
**11.00** The Doomed Oasis  
**11.30** Destination — Fire!  
**12.00** When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit  
**12.15pm** The Lonely Londoners  
**12.30** A Trespasser’s Guide to the Classics  
**1.00** Hancock’s Half Hour  
**1.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue  
**2.00** Nature Table  
**2.30** Robin and Wendy’s Wet Weekends  
**3.00** The Last September  
**4.00** The Doomed Oasis  
**4.30** Destination — Fire!  
**5.00** When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit. Rosemary Leach reads from Judith Kerr’s children’s novel  
**5.15** The Lonely Londoners  
**5.30** A Trespasser’s Guide to the Classics  
**6.00** Hancock’s Half Hour  
**6.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue  
**7.00** Nature Table. Comedy panel show  
**7.30** Robin and Wendy’s Wet Weekends. Robin is encouraged to bond with the baby  
**8.00** All Things Must Pass: 50 Years On. Examining the making of George Harrison’s third solo album. **See Radio Choice**  
**9.00** Short Cuts. Josie Long hears stories about doppelgangers. Last in the series  
**9.30** The Phone. *Going Dark*. Thriller, by Peter Jukes  
**10.00** Comedy Club: Room 101 with Paul Merton. Desiree Burch joins Paul and attempts to banish standing, sexting and underdone British bacon  
**10.30** Tim FitzHigham: The Gambler. The comedian tries to win a series of unusual historical wagers  
**11.00** The Sofa of Time. Comedy with Nick Frost  
**11.30** The Mel and Sue Thing

**Radio 5 Live**  
MW: 693, 909  
**5.00am** Wake Up to Money  
**6.00** 5 Live Breakfast  
**9.00** Nicky Campbell  
**11.00** Naga Munchetty  
**1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake  
**4.00** 5 Live Drive  
**7.00** 5 Live Sport  
**8.00** 5 Live Sport: Fiorentina v West Ham United (Kick-off **8.00**)  
**10.30** Colin Murray  
**1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

**talkSPORT**  
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz  
**5.00am** Early Breakfast  
**6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods  
**10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan  
**1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs  
**4.00** talkSPORT Drive  
**7.00** Kick Off: Fiorentina v West Ham United (Kick-off **8.00**)  
**10.00** Sports Bar  
**1.00am** Extra Time

**TalkRadio**  
Digital only  
**5.00am** James Max  
**6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show  
**10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham  
**1.00pm** Ian Collins  
**4.00** Vanessa Feltz  
**7.00** Jeremy Kyle  
**8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored  
**9.00** The Talk  
**10.00** Tom Newton Dunn  
**11.00** Live Petrie Hosken  
**1.00am** Paul Ross

**6 Music**  
Digital only  
**5.00am** Chris Hawkins  
**7.30** Lauren Laverne  
**10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs  
**1.00pm** Craig Charles  
**4.00** Steve Lamacq. Hak Baker live in session  
**7.00** New Music Fix Daily  
**9.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence  
**10.00** Riley & Coe  
**12.00** Freak Zone Playlist  
**1.00am** Lyrics By — With Murray Lachlan Young  
**3.00** 6 Music Live Hour  
**4.00** 6 Music’s Jukebox

**Virgin Radio**  
Digital only  
**6.30am** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch  
**10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris  
**1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss  
**4.00** Ricky Wilson  
**7.00** Bam  
**10.00** Amy Vevo  
**1.00am** Sean Goldsmith  
**4.00** Steve Denyer

**Classic FM**  
FM: 100-102 MHz  
**6.00am** More Music Breakfast  
**9.00** Alexander Armstrong  
**12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall  
**4.00pm** Margherita Taylor  
**7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven  
**10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents  
**1.00am** Bill Overton  
**4.00** Early Breakfast



television & radio

Viewing Guide  
Joe Clay

Arnold  
Netflix

Top  
pick

Netflix is certainly going big on Arnold Schwarzenegger. First with *Fubar*, an action-comedy series with Arnie doing Arnie things (wisecracking,

smoking cigars, killing people). This was preceded by an announcement that the streaming service had appointed him as its “chief action officer”, saying he was “working around the clock to bring you the most explosive series and films on Earth!” (like *Walter Presents* but with fewer subtitles and more guns). Now it

has Lesley Chilcott’s three-part profile of the 75-year-old actor, and the first episode finds him revisiting his upbringing in postwar Austria and his rise to bodybuilding fame. “My whole life I had this unusual talent that I could see things very clearly,” he says, puffing on a cigar in a hot tub. “If I can see it, then it must be achievable.”

Bodybuilding for Arnie was the idea that you could “sculpt the body to your will” — but it could also be used to “shape your mind”, and it is this clarity of thought and drive to succeed that has helped him to become a living embodiment of the American dream. “Growing up, I’ll tell you what I learnt,” he says. “Work your ass

off.” His relationship with his older brother was competitive, and his policeman father was a “tyrant” who would make the boys exercise to “earn their breakfast”. As the series unfolds he discusses his Hollywood career and move from acting into politics. It also investigates how his affair with a maid devastated his family.

**The Repair Shop**  
BBC1, 8pm

David Burville is one of only a handful of mechanical organ experts in the UK and he has a big job on his hands when Simon Armitage, the poet laureate, brings in a harmonium in need of restoration. It used to be in the church in Marsden, west

Yorkshire, the village where Armitage grew up, but when he heard they were planning to get rid of it he stepped in. Three generations of his family, including himself, have sung in the church choir, so the harmonium has sentimental value to him. He has even written a poem about it. Can Burville work his magic?

|       | BBC1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           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| Early | <b>6.00am</b> Breakfast <b>9.15</b> Morning Live. Magazine show <b>10.00</b> Claimed and Shamed. Insurance fraudsters caught on camera (AD) <b>10.45</b> Fraud Squad. The school business manager who embezzled more than £200,000 <b>11.15</b> Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Cardiff, Preston and Wolverhampton (r) (AD) <b>12.15pm</b> Bargain Hunt. Two teams scour Grantham town centre for items (r) (AD) <b>1.00</b> BBC News at One; Weather <b>1.30</b> BBC Regional News; Weather <b>1.45</b> Doctors. Zara tries to lay low (AD) <b>2.15</b> Money for Nothing. Exploring Keynsham Recycling Centre (r) <b>3.00</b> Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson is in Powys with a couple whose wish list includes an annexe for their parents, along with at least half an acre of land for their budget of £650,000 (r) (AD) <b>3.45</b> Garden Rescue. Charlie and Flo go head-to-head to design a garden to match a Victorian terraced house, and they have just £4,500 to tick all the boxes on the couple's extensive wishlist <b>4.30</b> Clean It, Fix It. The team head to London to help entrepreneurs make the most out of their house that is overrun with pets <b>5.15</b> Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) <b>6.00</b> BBC News at Six; Weather <b>6.30</b> BBC Regional News; Weather | <b>6.30am</b> Garden Rescue (r) <b>7.15</b> Clean It, Fix It (r) <b>8.00</b> Sign Zone: See Hear (SL) <b>8.30</b> Caught Red Handed (r) (AD, SL) <b>9.00</b> Nicky Campbell <b>11.00</b> BBC News <b>11.15</b> Politics Live <b>1.00pm</b> Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz in which contestants compete for the chance to win £10,000 (r) <b>1.45</b> Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) <b>2.15</b> The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation. Recipes from Europe (r) <b>2.45</b> A Countryside Summer. A man shares his passion for allotments (r) (AD) <b>3.15</b> Lost Land of the Jaguar. Scientists, climbers and wildlife film-makers explore the vast rainforest region of Guyana, a former British colony in South America (r) (AD) <b>4.15</b> Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. <i>I'm a Celebrity</i> comrades Stanley Johnson and Georgia "Toff" Toffolo compete to find profit-making antiques in Cumbria, guided by auctioneers Paul Laidlaw and Izzie Balmer (r) <b>5.15</b> Flog It! Paul Laidlaw and David Harper hunt for antiques in the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle in Co Durham. Paul Martin presents (r) <b>6.00</b> Richard Osman's House of Games. Nina Conti, Nick Helm, Athena Kugblenu and Toby Tarrant take part (r) <b>6.30</b> Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo makes his way from Bangor to Belfast (AD) | <b>6.00am</b> Good Morning Britain <b>9.00</b> Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and celebrity gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly <b>10.00</b> This Morning. A mix of celebrity chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather <b>12.30pm</b> Loose Women. Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews <b>1.30</b> ITV News; Weather <b>1.55</b> Regional News; Weather <b>2.00</b> Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team visit Peterborough, where Fay Rutter embraces the beautiful game of football and Tim Hogarth's nerves are put to the test in a deal (r) (AD) <b>3.00</b> Tenable for Soccer Aid. In a special edition of the programme, a team of five colleagues tackle a series of Top 10 list questions for the chance to win £125,000 for Soccer Aid <b>4.00</b> Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) <b>5.00</b> The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as another batch of contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize <b>6.00</b> Regional News; Weather <b>6.30</b> ITV News; Weather | <b>6.05am</b> Countdown. Jon Culshaw is in Dictionary Corner (r) <b>6.45</b> Cheers (r) <b>7.35</b> The King of Queens (r) (AD) <b>8.25</b> Frasier (r) (AD) <b>9.55</b> Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) (AD) <b>10.55</b> Couples Come Dine with Me (r) <b>11.55</b> Channel 4 News Summary <b>12.00</b> Steph's Packed Lunch. Weekday magazine show hosted by Steph McGovern <b>2.10pm</b> Countdown. Jon Culshaw is in Dictionary Corner <b>3.00</b> A Place in the Sun. A married couple seek Laura Hamilton's help to secure them a holiday apartment with a sea view in Torremolinos on Spain's Costa del Sol (r) <b>4.00</b> The Great House Giveaway. A bathroom fitter and an estate agent seem like the dream team to transform a house in Birmingham into a modern family home, but things soon slip behind schedule (r) <b>5.00</b> Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. A couple plan a glamping field but worry about just how glam it needs to be, and a family who are new to rural life throw themselves into their first fair (AD) <b>6.00</b> The Simpsons. Principal Skinner uses his Counter Truancy Unit to thwart a possible terror attack at Springfield Elementary's Annual Bake Sale (r) (AD) <b>6.30</b> Hollyoaks. Juliet makes a big decision, and Norma's surprise visitor has Jack feeling suspicious (r) (AD) | <b>6.00am</b> Milkshake! <b>9.15</b> Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence <b>11.15</b> Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories <b>12.15pm</b> Alexis Conran. The broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them <b>1.40</b> 5 News at Lunchtime <b>1.45</b> Home and Away. Eden confides in Cash that she does not want to share their love song with Lyrik because it is personal to them. Mali can tell Mackenzie is not coping and offers his support (r) (AD) <b>2.15 FILM: You Killed My Husband (PG, TVM, 2021)</b> After Denise's husband is killed, she is determined to find who did it, which leads her to tracking down Stephanie and her "mother". Thriller starring Jackee Harry <b>4.00</b> Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. In Glasgow, Paul finds himself up against antiques whizz-kid James Spiridon <b>5.00</b> 5 News at 5 <b>6.00</b> Eggheads. The Quizstoppers hope to topple the mighty Eggheads (r) <b>6.30</b> Eggheads. The Modest Corner hope to defeat the Eggheads (r) <b>6.55</b> 5 News Update |



Z Generation: into the heart of Russia’s

As the war in Ukraine shows no signs of coming to an end, Vladimir Putin is betting on a new generation of Russians to march in step with the regime. Russia's Youth Army now has more than a million members and - through TikTok dances and influencers - is indoctrinating children as young as six years old.

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|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7PM  | <b>7.00 The One Show</b> Alex Jones presents the magazine show featuring a mixture of celebrity chat and stories of interest<br><b>7.30 EastEnders</b> Suki sets her plan to take down Nish into action and Linda is determined to find some dirt on George. Meanwhile, Sharon worries about Keanu's business skills (AD) | <b>7.00 Digging for Britain</b> In Northern Ireland, the graveyard of a Victorian workhouse sheds light on one of the most traumatic periods of modern Irish history — the Great Famine of 1845 (2/4) (r) (AD)                                                                                               | <b>7.30 Emmerdale</b> There is a wedding day drama, Charity offers an olive branch, and Claudette irritates Charles, but it remains to be seen what else is bothering him (AD)                                                                                                                           | <b>7.00 Channel 4 News</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>7.00 Michael Ball's Wonderful Wales</b> The singer and broadcaster heads to mid-Wales, making his way to the north of the country, where his first stop is a seaside town he is extremely fond of — Aberystwyth (2/4) (r)<br><br><b>7.55 5 News Update</b>                                                                                                                |
| 8PM  | <b>8.00 The Repair Shop</b> The team restores Poet Laureate Simon Armitage's harmonium, the subject of one of his poems that brings back memories of his late father, a pair of leather clogs, a sculpture made in Czechoslovakia in 1947 and a charm bracelet from the 1960s. <i>See Viewing Guide</i> (AD)              | <b>8.00 Springwatch</b> Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan have their eyes set on the developing nests at RSPB Arne in Dorset. Meanwhile, Gillian Burke is moving down to the Llyn Peninsular in north Wales (7/12)                                                                                         | <b>8.00 Coronation Street</b> A reckless Sarah and Damon are spotted in a clinch, Max attempts to make amends to Alya, and Tim offers Aggie his house for a little harmless deception (AD)                                                                                                               | <b>8.00 Location, Location, Location</b> Kirstie and Phil catch up with a couple who they helped to find a shared home back in 2011. Plus, a pair who bought their first house together in 2020                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>8.00 Greggs: Secrets of Their Best Bakes</b> Documentary revealing the secrets of the bakery company, as food critic Grace Dent goes behind-the-scenes to find out how Greggs became Britain's billion pound bakery                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9PM  | <b>9.00 The Great British Sewing Bee</b> The sewers are challenged to make several garments inspired by West African fashion and Nigerian fashion designer Banke Kuku joins as a guest judge (3/10) (AD)                                                                                                                  | <b>9.00 The Gallows Pole</b> David gathers his family and friends and explains he has brought some tools from Birmingham giving them the potential to transform everyone's lives. He then gives them a demonstration in the art of coin clipping. <i>See Viewing Guide</i> (2/3) (AD)                        | <b>9.00 Manhunt</b> Fact-based crime drama about the 2004 police investigation to bring serial killer Levi Bellfield to justice. The case begins when the dead body of a French student is discovered on Twickenham Green, having sustained fatal head injuries. Martin Clunes stars (1/3) (r) (AD)      | <b>9.00 Extraordinary Escapes with Sandi Toksvig</b> New series. Sandi is joined by comedian Eddie Izzard on an Irish adventure as they visit three holiday hideaways in Counties Clare, Kerry and Cork and bond over homemade apple crumble. <i>See Viewing Guide</i> (1/5) (AD)                                                                               | <b>9.00 For Her Sins</b> Laura is left reeling when she finds out that Emily has lied about her identity, and the pair come to blows when she finds Emily playing nurse to her sick daughter. Later, Laura receives a threatening letter (3/4)                                                                                                                               |
| 10PM | <b>10.00 BBC News at Ten</b><br><br><b>10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather</b><br><b>10.40 I Kissed a Boy</b> The third kiss-off ends with a bang, as Dannii Minogue asks the couples to make their toughest choice yet — if their relationships can survive on the outside (7/8) (r) (AD)                                | <b>10.00 Live at the Apollo</b> The inimitable Larry Dean introduces comedians Harriet Kemsley and Slim (4/6) (r)<br><br><b>10.30 Newsnight</b> Analysis of the day's events with Victoria Derbyshire                                                                                                        | <b>10.00 ITV News at Ten</b><br><br><b>10.30 Regional News</b><br><b>10.45 Peston</b> Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures                                                                                          | <b>10.00 Britain's Forgotten Pensioners — Dispatches</b> Following four pensioners from different parts of the country through winter as they struggle to make ends meet with the high price of energy and soaring inflation (AD)                                                                                                                               | <b>10.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts</b> One of the department's new junior doctors treats a man with a suspected case of sepsis, that has been triggered by the tracheostomy tube he relies on to breathe, and an 84-year-old woman is brought in by ambulance after falling down a flight of stairs (r)                                                             |
| 11PM | <b>11.20 I Kissed a Boy</b> The boys decide if they want to take their relationship into the real world — but not before one final party where everyone dresses up as their favourite queer icon. Dannii Minogue presents (r) (AD)                                                                                        | <b>11.15 Unspun World with John Simpson</b> The BBC's world affairs editor reflects on the week's major global news<br><br><b>11.45 The Edge (15, 2019)</b> Documentary about England's Test cricket team between 2009 and 2013, the first and only English side to ever reach the top of the world rankings | <b>11.40 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport</b> Police special operations across the airport (3/6) (r) (AD)                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>11.05 Married to a Psychopath</b> The story of the hunt for murderer Malcolm Webster, who targeted wealthy women for their money. The programme explores the crimes from the perspective of detective Charles Henry, who was behind the investigation to re-open a cold case (1/2) (r)                                                                       | <b>11.05 A&amp;E After Dark</b> An ambulance rushes an elderly patient into resus after a fall down a flight of stairs in the middle of the night. The trauma team fear the patient may have internal injuries (6/10) (r)                                                                                                                                                    |
| Late | <b>12.15am-6.00 BBC News</b> The day's headlines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>1.15am Sign Zone: See Hear</b> (r) (SL) <b>1.45</b> Rip Off Britain (r) (SL) <b>2.30-3.30</b> MasterChef (r) (AD, SL)                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>12.30am Teleshopping</b> <b>3.00</b> Tenable for Soccer Aid. A team of five colleagues join forces to take on the Tenable tower (r) (SL) <b>3.50</b> Unwind with ITV <b>5.05-6.00</b> Made in Britain. The secrets of an unskippable vinyl turntable from a team of audio-loving experts (r) (AD, SL) | <b>12.05am A Paedophile in My Family: Surviving Dad</b> (r) (AD, SL) <b>1.10 FILM: Nobody's Fool (15, 2018)</b> Romantic comedy starring Tiffany Haddish and Tika Sumpter (SL) <b>3.00</b> Ramsay's Hotel Hell (r) (AD, SL) <b>3.50</b> Couples Come Dine with Me (r) <b>4.45</b> Fame in the Family (r) <b>5.10-6.05</b> Location, Location, Location (r) (SL) | <b>12.05am 999: Criminals Caught on Camera</b> A police officer is injured during an ammonia attack (r) <b>1.00</b> Teleshopping <b>3.00</b> The Yorkshire Vet. Peter operates on a greedy terrier (r) (AD) <b>3.55</b> GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Documentary (r) (AD) <b>5.30</b> Entertainment News on 5 <b>5.35</b> Fireman Sam (r) (SL) <b>5.45-6.00</b> Thomas (r) (SL) |



television & radio

The Gallows Pole

BBC2, 9pm

Shane Meadows’s period drama, shot through with traces of folk horror, continues. What sets it apart is his preference for improvisation and naturalism — not every scene drives the narrative and might be cut by another director. There’s an absurd

exchange between David Hartley (Michael Socha) and the Stag Man, with our hero bantering with the skull-headed portent of doom, who becomes exasperated when Hartley fails to grasp the meaning of his non sequiturs. But things do get serious tonight as Hartley sets out his plan to save the village from destitution.

Extraordinary Escapes with Sandi Toksvig

Channel 4, 9pm

Sandi Toksvig returns for a third run of the good-natured series in which she takes short breaks in amazing houses with “queens of comedy”. First up it’s the irrepressible Eddie Izzard — or Suzy to friends — and their

first destination is a timber-clad pad situated beneath an ancient beech tree in rural Co Clare. Izzard discusses her relaxed approach to being transgender and the death of her mother when she was a child. They also rediscover a sense of childhood adventure with a night in the extraordinary Ark Ranch Treehouse.

Kisses at Fifty

BBC4, 10pm

Colin Welland, who won an Oscar for his screenplay for *Chariots of Fire* in 1981, wrote this authentic 1973 edition of *Play for Today* about middle-aged love in a northern town. Fifty-year-old Harry Cook (Bill Maynard) has fallen out of love with Rene

(Rosemarie Dunham), his wife of 20 years, and is bored with his job in a dye factory. He embarks on an affair with Audrey, who works in his local pub, and flees down south to start afresh. His wife and grown-up children aren’t best pleased — the ensuing domestic dramas are directed with aplomb by Michael Apted.

Film The Missing

GREAT! Movies, 9pm

There are conscious echoes of John Ford’s classic *The Searchers* in Ron Howard’s lush, epic western. It stars Cate Blanchett as a frontier woman whose daughter is snatched, forcing her to reconcile with her long-estranged father (Tommy Lee Jones). (15, 2003)

Sky Max

**6.00am** Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** Supergirl (r) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) **5.00** The Flash (r) **6.00** Stargate SG-1. Sci-fi series (r) **7.00** Stargate SG-1. Daniel and Vala visit Atlantis hoping to find the Sangraal (r) **8.00** S.W.A.T. Elderly people are targeted in a string of violent home robberies (r) **9.00** Flintoff’s Road to Nowhere. Part one of two. Former cricketer Andrew Flintoff cycles through the Amazon (1/2) (r) (AD) **10.00** Poker Face. Charlie takes a job at a family-run Texas barbecue joint and must use her skills of perception to sniff out the truth behind a shocking death (3/10) (r) **11.05** Poker Face. Charlie goes on tour with a heavy metal band (4/10) (r) **12.05am** Last King of the Cross (r) **1.20** Road Wars (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

**6.00am** Urban Secrets (r) **7.55** Big Love (r) (AD) **10.05** True Blood (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.30** Big Love (r) (AD) **5.45** True Blood (r) **6.50** True Blood. Sookie faces a major dilemma when deciding whether or not to broker a deal between Bill and Warlow (r) **8.00** Game of Thrones. Jon and the Night’s Watch face their biggest challenge (r) (AD) **9.00** Perry Mason. Della interrogates Councilman Taylor (6/8) (r) **10.05** White House Plumbers. A leaked memo puts the Nixon administration in jeopardy (r) **11.05** The Night Of. Chandra has a disturbing encounter with a potential witness, while unexpected information from Naz’s past is presented in court. Crime drama starring Riz Ahmed (6/8) (r) (AD) **12.15am** Sharp Objects. Crime drama starring Amy Adams (r) (AD) **1.20** In Treatment (r) **1.50** Game of Thrones. Fantasy (r) (AD) **3.00** The Guest Wing (r) (AD) **4.00** Urban Secrets (r)

Sky Documentaries

**6.00am** The Movies (r) **7.00** Discovering (r) (AD) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Seventies (r) (AD) **10.00** Fashion’s Darkest Secret (r) (AD) **10.55** The Vietnam War (r) **12.00** Clint Eastwood: A Life in Film (r) **1.45pm** My Icon: John Amaechi (r) (AD) **2.00 FILM: Dogtown and Z-Boys (15, 2001)** Documentary **3.50** My Icon: Natasha Jonas (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Vivien Leigh (r) (AD) **6.00** The Seventies. Documentary (r) (AD) **7.00** Fashion’s Darkest Secret (3/3) (r) (AD) **7.55** The Vietnam War. Documentary (r) **9.00** David Fuller: Monster in the Morgue. Revealing how Fuller was brought to justice **10.00** I Am Johnny Cash. A celebration of the country singer-songwriter built around 12 of his classic tracks spanning four decades (r) (AD) **11.50 FILM: Forbidden Games — The Justin Fashanu Story (12, 2017)** **1.30am** Premier League Legends (r) (AD) **2.00** Forced Out (r) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Vivien Leigh (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

**6.00am** Darbar: Indian Music for the Soul **7.30** Rumpelstiltskin: BalletLORENT **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Walter Matthau (AD) **12.00** Wonderland: From JM Barrie to JRR Tolkien **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** The Big Design Challenge (AD) **3.00** The Directors **4.00** Discovering: Shirley MacLaine (AD) **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** Discovering: Forest Whitaker. The life and career of the Oscar-winning actor **8.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2018 **9.00** Film Noir. An exploration of the genre (AD) **10.00** Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President. Documentary charting the role of rock music in the former US president’s life and work **12.00** Bob Dylan: No Direction Home **2.15am** Marina Abramovic Takes Over TV **3.15** Offended by Irvine Welsh (AD) **4.15** Soundbreaking (AD) **5.10** Video Killed the Radio Star

Sky Main Event

**6.00am** Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Live Test Cricket: Australia v India. Coverage of the first day of the World Test Championship Final from The Oval in London, as the teams bid to succeed New Zealand as champions in this one-off contest. The sides met in this format earlier in the year in India with the hosts claiming a 2-1 series victory over four matches, but the Aussies will be hopeful of avenging that series defeat now they are playing at a neutral venue **6.15pm** Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Kent Spitfires v Essex Eagles. Coverage of the South Group match from The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury **10.00** Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment **10.30** Back Pages Tonight. A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow’s newspapers **11.00** Sky Sports News. Headlines **1.30am** Live NBA: Miami Heat v Denver Nuggets (Tip-off **1.00**) **4.30** Sky Sports News

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THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES Know your times

TalkTV

**6.00am** James Max. The host provides an initial insight into the day’s top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. The host covers all the breaking stories to start the day **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, debates and dedicated time for viewers’ calls **4.00** Vanessa Feltz. The host gives a guide through the big stories of the day **7.00** Jeremy Kyle Live. The presenter takes on the hard-hitting issues that really matter **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day’s global events with debate and straight-talking interviews **9.00** The Talk. Join a panel of opinionated famous faces from the worlds of politics, showbiz, business and current affairs to debate the latest topics everybody is talking about **10.00** First Edition. Programme taking an energetic look at tomorrow’s news, tonight **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle Live **2.00** Vanessa Feltz **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4

**7.00pm** Coastal Path. Paul Rose explores the coastline of southern Cornwall **7.30** Fred Dibnah’s Industrial Age. The textile mills and factories of Britain (2/6) **8.00** Bolsover Castle with Lucy Worsley: Secret Knowledge. The story of the 17th-century residence in Derbyshire **8.30** Lucy Worsley’s Fireworks for a Tudor Queen. The historian teams up with materials scientist Zoe Laughlin in an ambitious attempt to recreate one of the earliest and most spectacular firework displays in Britain **10.00** Kisses at Fifty. Bill Maynard stars in this 1973 play about a married factory worker who kisses a barnmaid in front of the whole pub on his 50th birthday — and the consequences for all around him. See *Viewing Guide* **11.10** The Capture. Rachel finally comes face to face with Shaun, who offers up the location of the CIA safe house before managing to evade arrest. The soldier flees into an encounter with two strangers, who offer to provide him with the answers he is looking for (4/6) **12.05am** The Capture **2.05** Coastal Path **2.35-3.05** Fred Dibnah’s Industrial Age

Talking Pictures

**6.00am** The Detectives (b/w) **7.00 FILM: Cause for Alarm (PG, 1951)** Thriller (b/w) **8.25 FILM: Go West (U, 1925)** Silent Comedy Western (b/w) **10.00** The Onedin Line **11.00 FILM: River Beat (U, 1954)** Thriller (b/w) **12.20pm FILM: Grand National Night (PG, 1953)** Crime drama starring Nigel Patrick (b/w) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00 FILM: Scott of the Antarctic (U, 1948)** Fact-based drama starring John Mills **5.10 FILM: The Frozen North (U, 1922)** Silent comedy starring Buster Keaton (b/w) **5.30** One Step Beyond (b/w) **6.00 FILM: Hell and High Water (PG, 1954)** Cold War adventure starring Richard Widmark **8.00** Gideon’s Way. Crimedrama (b/w) **9.00 FILM: And Then There Were None (PG, 1974)** Agatha Christie mystery starring Oliver Reed and Richard Attenborough **11.00 FILM: Breakout (15, 1997)** Eco-thriller starring Neil Dudgeon and Samantha Bond **12.50am FILM: Phase IV (PG, 1974)** Sci-fi horror starring Nigel Davenport **2.30 FILM: Murder, Inc (15, 1960)** Gangster thriller starring Peter Falk (b/w) **4.40 FILM: The Girl in the Taxi (U, 1937)** Musical comedy (b/w)

Film4

**11.00am Shenandoah (PG, 1965)** American Civil War Western starring James Stewart **1.10pm Sink the Bismarck! (U, 1960)** Fact-based Second World War drama starring Kenneth More (b/w) (AD) **3.10 Cat Ballou (PG, 1965)** Musical comedy Western starring Jane Fonda and Lee Marvin (AD) **5.05 The Tin Star (U, 1957)** Western starring Henry Fonda, Anthony Perkins and Lee Van Cleef (b/w) **7.00 Eye in the Sky (15, 2015)** A mission to wipe out a terrorist cell is complicated when a girl enters the blast radius of a planned drone strike. Thriller starring Helen Mirren (AD) **9.00 White House Down (12, 2013)** A policeman on a tour of the White House has to save the president when terrorists seize control of the building. Action thriller with Channing Tatum and Jamie Foxx (AD) **11.35 Monster (18, 2003)** Fact-based drama examining the background and events that motivated Aileen Wuornos to commit serial murder. Starring an Oscar-winning Charlize Theron, and Christina Ricci (AD) **1.50am-3.40 1985 (15, 2018)** Drama starring Cory Michael Smith and Michael Chiklis

More4

**8.55am** Kirstie’s Handmade Treasures **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Escape to the Château. Dick works on the walled garden (AD) **6.55** The Dog House. Documentary (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Natasha Cargill wants to build a home shaped like two enormous periscopes in rural Norfolk, but she must adhere to strict planning constraints to ensure she can live there (6/10) (AD) **9.00** Tutankhamun: Secrets of the Tomb. Part two of two. Ella Al-Shamahi investigates the strange deaths connected to the tomb (AD) **10.00** Homes from Hell: Caught on Camera. Real-life footage reveals some of the dangers lurking inside homes, from bugs and the chaos caused by animals and children to dodgy DIY and conflict with neighbours (AD) **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E. Cameras follow a woman who is rushed to A&E after being flung from a go-kart at speed (AD) **12.05am** Emergency Helicopter Medics (AD) **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

**6.00am** World’s Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **7.00** Dress to Impress (AD, SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson’s Creek **10.00** Love Bites (AD) **11.00** Dress to Impress (AD) **12.00** Celebrity Dinner Date **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson’s Creek **5.00** Celebrity Dinner Date. Amy Childs **6.00** Catchphrase Celebrity Special (AD) **7.00** Alan Carr’s Epic Gameshow. The comedian revives the classic game show *The Price Is Right* with eight members of the studio audience invited to spin the famous wheel (AD) **8.00** Superstore. The staff are snowed in (AD) **8.30** Superstore. Marcus gets a tattoo (AD) **9.00** Love Island. The first week continues **10.05** Tell Me Everything. Mei’s dangerous behaviour gets Neve into hot water (2/6) (AD) **11.05** Family Guy. Animated comedy (AD) **11.30** Family Guy. Animated comedy (AD) **12.00** American Dad! (AD) **12.55am** Superstore (AD) **1.55** Don’t Hate the Playaz **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

**6.00am** Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.15** The Darling Buds of May (AD) **11.40** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.45** Foyle’s War (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. Rural police drama (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. An investigation into the appearance of forged bank notes in Aidsfield leads to the discovery of a major operation, and Blaketon is persuaded to try a new image (AD) **8.00** Lewis. A man incarcerated for the murders of three police officers launches an appeal when the evidence is called into question (4/6) (AD) **10.00** Scott & Bailey. A wealthy man leading a double life is murdered, Rachel fears Sean will find out about her recent one-night stand and Janet asks her mother to move in (3/8) (AD) **11.05** Scott & Bailey. Troubled saleswoman Helen (Nicola Walker) turns up with shocking information, while the appointment of a new sergeant puts Janet out of joint (4/8) (AD) **12.10am** The Darling Buds of May. Part one of two. The Larkins plan a holiday abroad (AD) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

**6.00am** Minder (AD, SL) **7.05** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.05** The Saint **9.10** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.20** Magnum, PI (AD) **11.20** The Saint **12.25pm** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.40** Isle of Man TT **2.40** Magnum, PI (AD) **3.45** The Professionals (AD) **4.45** Minder (AD) **5.55** Giant Lobster Hunters. How skippers navigate difficult conditions (AD) **6.55** World of Sport. Daredevil jumps **7.00** Cycling: Critérium du Dauphiné Highlights. Cycling action from stage four **8.00** World Rally Championship Highlights. Action from the sixth round of the season **9.00** Isle of Man TT. Motorcycling action from the opening superpin TT race **10.00** No Room for Error. One of the most popular figures reaches a landmark milestone **11.05 FILM: Pitch Black (15, 2000)** The survivors of a spaceship crash turn to a murderer to save them when they are attacked by predators during an eclipse. Sci-fi horror starring Vin Diesel and Radha Mitchell **1.15am** Isle of Man TT **2.10** The Protectors (SL) **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

**6.00am** Teleshopping **7.30** Pie in the Sky **8.25** Lovejoy **9.40** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko Reunion **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.20** May to December **6.00** Just Good Friends. Vince and Penny meet in Paris after a two-year separation **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine. Classic comedy **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. After seeing a man skinning on a van roof, the pals are intrigued to discover it is an old friend **8.00** Kingdom. A couple accuse Cambridge University of discrimination (4/6) **9.00** The Coroner. Jane and Davey investigate when the patriarch of a local aristocratic family is found stabbed to death (8/10) (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. The detectives reopen the case of a pub landlord killed in a fire (7/10) (AD) **11.20** Silent Witness. Sam helps investigate the case of two brothers found dead in a police cell, and she is forced to confront the truth about her part in a previous inquiry **2.00am** Gentleman Jack (AD) **3.1** 5 Classic Holby City **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

**6.10am** Secrets of the Transport Museum (AD) **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **10.00** Great British Railway Journeys **11.00** Fred Dibnah’s Peak Practice **5.20** May to December **6.00** Just Good Friends. Vince and Penny meet in Paris after a two-year separation **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine. Classic comedy **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. After seeing a man skinning on a van roof, the pals are intrigued to discover it is an old friend **8.00** Kingdom. A couple accuse Cambridge University of discrimination (4/6) **9.00** The Coroner. Jane and Davey investigate when the patriarch of a local aristocratic family is found stabbed to death (8/10) (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. The detectives reopen the case of a pub landlord killed in a fire (7/10) (AD) **11.20** Silent Witness. Sam helps investigate the case of two brothers found dead in a police cell, and she is forced to confront the truth about her part in a previous inquiry **2.00am** Gentleman Jack (AD) **3.1** 5 Classic Holby City **4.00** Teleshopping

BBC Scotland

**7.00pm** Scotland’s Biggest Families (r) **8.00** Granite Harbour. detective thriller (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **10.30** Debate Night **11.30-12.00** The Scotts (r)

BBC Alba

**6.00am** Alba Today **5.00pm** Nannag a’ Noo/ Huggleboo (r) **5.10** Bing (r) **5.15** Leum is Danns (Jump and Dance) (r) **5.25** Abadas (r) **5.40** Rita is Crogall (r) **5.45** Pip & Posy (r) **5.50** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Kung Fu Panda (r) **6.25** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles (r) **6.40** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/ The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** An t-Eilean (From Sky with Love) Duglie restores a piece of dinosaur bone (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Eilean Mo Ghaol (From Lewis with Love) (r) **9.00** Ceol is Cradh (r) **10.00** Mach à Seo! **10.30** Bannan (The Ties That Bind) **11.00** Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C

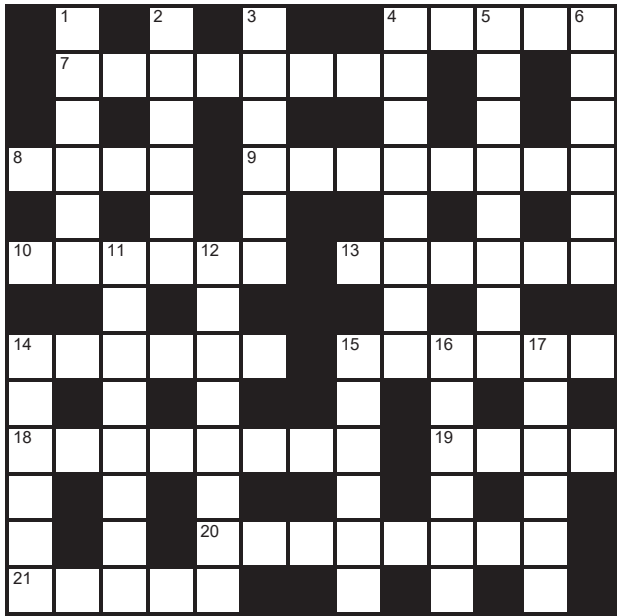
**6.00am** Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Halibaw (r) **6.15** Twrt (r) **6.30** Y Brodry Coala (r) **6.40** Amser Maith Maith yn Ôl (r) **7.00** Ty Mèl (r) **7.10** Tomos a’i Ffrindiau **7.20** Anifelliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **7.45** Cacawmnci **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **8.20** Stiù (r) **8.35** Nico Nôg (r) **8.45** Llan-ar-goll-en (r) **9.00** Wibli Sochyn y Mochyn (r) **9.10** Misho (r) **9.20** Yr Ysgol (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Sigldigwt (r) **10.00** Ty Mèl (r) **10.10** Tomos a’i Ffrindiau (r) **10.20** Anifelliaid Bach y Byd (r) **10.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **10.45** Cacawmnci (r) **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw: Peppa (r) **11.05** Da’i Dona (r) **11.15** Rapsgalwinn (r) **11.30** Octonots (r) **11.45** Sbarc (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Dau Gi Bach (r) (AD) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **1.30** Garddio a Mwy (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Iaith ar Daith (r) (AD) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Cymylaubychain (r) **4.10** Tomos a’i Ffrindiau (r) **4.20** Anifelliaid Bach y Byd (r) **4.30** Stiù (r) **4.45** Cacawmnci (r) **5.00** Stynsh: Dewi a’r Ditectifys Gwyllt (r) **5.10** Y Dyfnfor (r) **5.30** Larfa (r) **5.35** Ci Da (r) **5.55** Ffreil **6.00** Dim Byd i’w Wisgo (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno. Magazine programme **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Ty am Ddim **10.00** Cofio Dafydd Hywel (r) **11.00** Y Byd ar Bedwar (r) **11.30-12.05am** Ar y Dibyn (r)





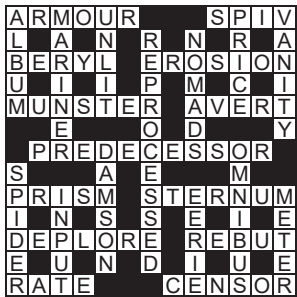


times2 Crossword No 9237



- Across**
- 4 Unsuitable (5)
  - 7 Culinary vessel (8)
  - 8 Miles Davis's music genre (4)
  - 9 Morally pure (8)
  - 10 Queen Victoria's prince consort (6)
  - 13 Implant (ideas or principles) (6)
  - 14 Savage, vicious (6)
  - 15 Irritable (6)
  - 18 Game for young children (8)
  - 19 Leak slowly, seep (4)
  - 20 Imperil (8)
  - 21 Flock of geese in flight (5)
- Down**
- 1 Attack, beset (6)
  - 2 Eat greedily (6)
  - 3 Smooth soft fabric (6)
  - 4 Specific case (8)
  - 5 One who neither believes nor disbelieves (8)
  - 6 Tall plant with prickly seedheads (6)
  - 11 Person with brown hair (8)
  - 12 Enliven once more (8)
  - 14 Road avoiding a city (6)
  - 15 Chest area (6)
  - 16 Livestock food container (6)
  - 17 Potential cause of harm (6)

Solution to Crossword 9236



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

**Top Tens A. Bidding 10. Think "Zone" (ii) Game**

Any bid that says to partner, "We are forced to game" is a good one in my book. Clarity of zone makes bidding so much easier. If the auction is forced to game, one challenge is resolved, and the partnership can now focus on which game to play (as opposed to whether or not to play game).

I love such conventions as Fourth Suit Forcing, whereby a bid of the fourth suit eg 1♥-1♠-2♣-2♦ says, "We're going to game, more information please." I love the Jacoby convention too, whereby 1♥/♠-2NT agrees partner's major and sets up a game-force. Spoiler alert: they will be two of my top ten conventions.

I also strongly recommend you play that a 2NT rebid after a new-suit response at the Two-level (eg 1♥-2♣-2NT) as forcing to game. The logic is that the Two-level response shows (near-enough) ten or more points; and by rebidding Notrumps, opener shows at least 15 (more than a 1NT opener). The values for game are therefore present (or perhaps one point shy if responder has nine points); it makes sense to decree the auction as forcing to game. Given that, why not make the range 15-19, so you avoid the clunky jump to 3NT, which cuts out Three-level dialogue?

Using similar logic, it makes sense to play a jump repeat by opener after a Two-level response eg 1♥-2♣-3♥ as forcing to game.

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

|         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ♠ 764   | ♥ Q53   | ♦ 64    | ♣ AQJ74 |
| ♠ J1093 | ♥ 86    | ♦ AJ953 | ♣ 95    |
| ♠ AK2   | ♥ AKJ42 | ♦ Q82   | ♣ 62    |
| ♠ Q85   | ♥ 1097  | ♦ K107  | ♣ K1083 |

| S      | W    | N     | E    |
|--------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥     | Pass | 2♣(1) | Pass |
| 2NT(2) | Pass | 3♥(3) | Pass |
| 4♥(4)  | End  |       |      |

(1) Just worth it; a point fewer and North would raise to 2♥ (preferable to 1NT).  
(2) Showing 15-19 and forcing to game.  
(3) Showing her delayed (ie three-card) support, offering a choice of games.  
(4) Owning the fifth heart. Note, make ♦Q into ♦A, and South should control-bid 4♦ (showing the fifth heart, maximum values and ♦A – bear in mind North is unlimited).

West led ♠J, East encouraging with ♠8 and declarer winning ♠A. At trick two, declarer led ♠2 to ♣Q. East ducking smoothly might have worked well (a slow duck is no good – declarer would play to ruff a diamond in dummy). In practice, East won ♣K and led ♠Q.

Winning ♠K, declarer cashed ♥AJ, both opponents following. She then crossed to ♠A and ruffed ♠4 with ♥K. She returned to ♥Q, drawing East's last trump, and cashed ♠J7. That was nine tricks in the bag with a heart to come – game made.

Note, in traditional Acoll, the bidding would go 1♥-2♣-3NT-P. The defence would cash the first five diamonds. andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

**EASY** 21 -7 x3 +8 DOUBLE IT +20 ÷10 x4 -4 ÷2 **ANSWER**

**MEDIUM** 108 x3 +2/3 OF IT x2 DOUBLE IT ÷8 +5 x4 ÷50 DOUBLE IT **ANSWER**

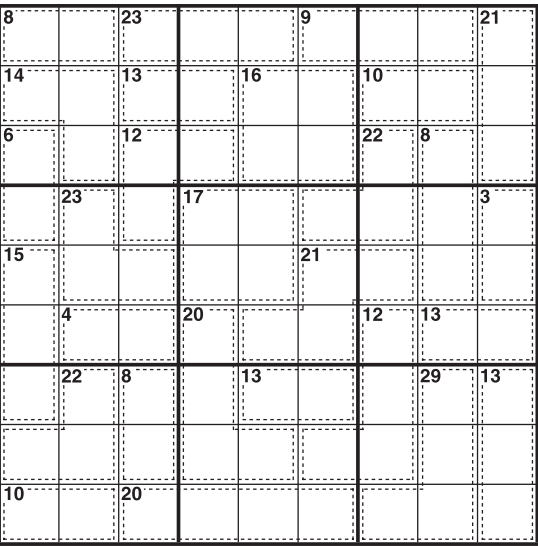
**HARDER** 83 DOUBLE IT +22 ÷4 -5 +5/7 OF IT TRIPLE IT +2/3 OF IT +1/10 OF IT DOUBLE IT **ANSWER**

Polygon

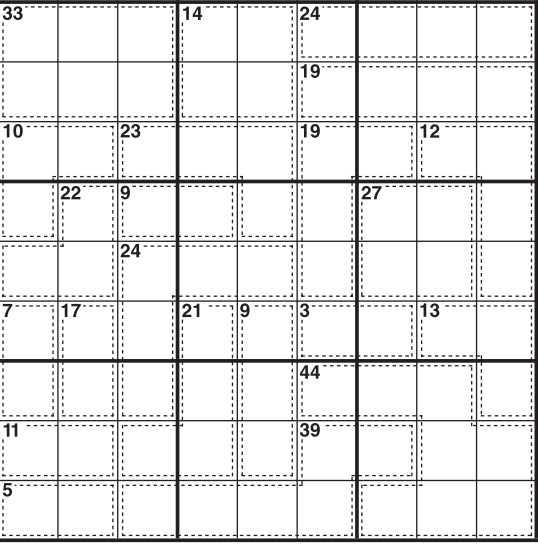
From these letters, make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. How you rate 16 words, average; 22, good; 26, very good; 30, excellent

Yesterday's answers  
and, ani, ant, anti, axion, axon, dan, danio, din, dint, dioxan, don, into, ion, nit, nix, nod, not, **oxidant**, tan, taxon, tian, tin, ton, toxin

Killer Tricky No 8912



Killer Deadly No 8913



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

**Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen?** Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Cell Blocks No 4804

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 3455

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Solutions

**Quick Cryptic 2411**  
CROP ZEPPELIN  
A P G N Y E O  
PRESENT LETGO  
A R N E O T N  
CLARE RUNOUT  
I V T C S  
TAKEABACKSEAT  
Y N I T E  
BEATEN TESLA  
P E I M S L L  
LOCUM ENCHANT  
U A E N H S H  
SEPARATE WHEY

**Codeword 4920**  
S O R F P A  
STANZA AROUND  
O Y G S L G  
APEX BACKYARD  
G A I G Y  
SALVAGEABLE  
P I O H  
CONJUGATION  
Q L O Y R  
SUPERIOR WIRY  
A N N A I I  
MISCUE TYPIFY  
L E R E E Y

**Kakuro 3451**  
5 8 9 7 7 9  
8 1 3 9 8 9 7 6 5  
5 2 1 3 8 8 9  
4 2 5 9 3 1 8 7  
8 9 1 2 7 5 9  
8 9 7 5 1 3 1  
9 7 2 3 9 1 6 4  
7 9 7 6 8 9 3  
6 7 9 8 5 4 9 7 1  
8 9 7 9 2 4

**Train Tracks 1955**  
4 3 7 6 4 4 3 2  
A  
B

**Sudoku 14,092**  
6 8 2 7 5 9 3 4 1  
9 5 1 3 6 4 8 7 2  
4 3 7 8 1 2 9 5 6  
3 6 5 9 4 7 1 2 8  
2 1 8 5 3 6 7 9 4  
7 9 4 1 2 8 5 6 3  
5 2 9 4 8 1 6 3 7  
1 7 6 2 9 3 4 8 5  
8 4 3 6 7 5 2 1 9

**Tetronor 367**  
182 30 272 18  
14 x 13 20 + 10 68 x 4 9 + 9  
36 81 21 224  
28 + 8 9 x 9 11 + 10 8 x 28  
200 33 266 72  
10 x 20 20 + 13 38 x 7 68 + 4  
45 260 27 110  
7 + 38 20 x 13 14 + 13 10 x 11

**Sudoku 14,093**  
7 3 4 9 1 8 6 5 2  
5 1 8 2 4 6 9 3 7  
2 9 6 3 7 5 1 8 4  
6 8 7 1 5 4 3 2 9  
3 2 1 6 9 7 5 4 8  
4 5 9 8 3 2 7 6 1  
1 7 5 4 8 3 2 9 6  
8 6 3 7 2 9 4 1 5  
9 4 2 5 6 1 8 7 3

**Cell Blocks 4803**  
3 3  
3 2 4 2  
2 8 6  
2 14

**Set Square 3454**  
8 x 6 - 9  
x + +  
3 + 7 + 1  
÷ + -  
2 + 4 + 5

**Lexica 6903**  
S T T  
S T A R C H  
R Y R  
J O G B A N  
K E

**Sudoku 14,094**  
7 2 3 9 5 4 1 6 8  
5 8 4 1 6 7 3 2 9  
1 6 9 8 3 2 4 5 7  
4 9 7 6 1 3 2 8 5  
6 1 5 2 4 8 7 9 3  
2 3 8 5 7 9 6 1 4  
3 5 6 4 8 1 9 7 2  
9 7 1 3 2 5 8 4 6  
8 4 2 7 9 6 5 3 1

**Futoshiki 4492**  
5 4 3 1 2  
2 1 4 5 3  
1 3 5 2 4  
4 < 5 2 3 1  
3 2 1 < 4 < 5

**KenKen 5912**  
2 5 6 4 3 1  
5 6 1 2 4 3  
4 3 5 6 1 2  
1 4 2 3 6 5  
6 2 3 1 5 4  
3 1 4 5 2 6

**Lexica 6904**  
A T A R  
C U E E  
U A C  
M Y S T I C  
E E T  
N H E Y

**Today's solutions**

**Concise Quintagram**  
1 Mind  
2 Suffer  
3 Slings  
4 Arrows  
5 Outrageous

**Cryptic Quintagram**  
1 Quays  
2 Usual  
3 Anthem  
4 Record  
5 Tabernacle

**Suko 3822**  
9 21 2  
7 1 5  
6 3 8

**Brain Trainer**  
Easy 22  
Medium 44  
Harder 792

**Word watch**  
**Swither** (a) To hesitate or vacillate (Collins)  
**Reveur** (a) A daydreamer (Chambers)  
**Cornemuse** (c) An early form of bagpipe (OED)

**Chess – Winning Move**  
1 Nb4! wins. After 1... Nxh4 2 Nf6+ Kf8 3 cxb4 the dual threats against the rook and knight mean White will make a decisive material gain.

**Quiz**  
1 Amazon 2 Ice cream. Usually vanilla 3 Casualty. He played Charlie Fairhead 4 Abraham Lincoln 5 Simply Red 6 County Durham 7 Britney Spears 8 George III 9 St Giles' Cathedral 10 Berkshire 11 Charlie Brooker 12 Cataplana 13 "King" David Hartley 14 Ronnie O'Sullivan. He was aged 46 15 Douglas Hurd aka Baron Hurd of Westwell



# MindGames

## Word watch

David Parfitt

**Swither**  
**a** To hesitate or vacillate  
**b** To put down with a wry remark  
**c** To wilt in intense heat

**Reveur**  
**a** A daydreamer  
**b** A cabaret performer  
**c** A person who returns unexpectedly

**Cornemuse**  
**a** The side opposite an angle  
**b** A thick maize porridge  
**c** An early form of bagpipe

Answers on page 15

## Sudoku Difficult No 14,095

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 4 |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 4 | 3 |   |   | 2 |   |
| 9 |   |   | 2 |   | 7 |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | 4 | 2 |   | 7 |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |
| 6 | 4 |   | 9 |   |   | 1 | 3 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
| 7 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 | 9 |   | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 |   |   |

## Fiendish No 14,096

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 3 | 8 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 3 |   |   |
| 7 | 4 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 8 |
|   |   | 1 | 6 | 7 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 | 2 |
|   |   | 9 | 4 | 8 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 4 | 2 |   | 6 |   |   |   | 1 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 5 | 8 |   |   |
| 6 | 5 |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |

**Super fiendish No 14,097**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 9 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   |   | 5 |   | 9 |   | 3 |   |
|   | 5 | 1 |   |   |   | 7 |   |   |
| 1 |   |   | 8 |   | 3 | 5 |   |   |
|   | 8 |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |
|   |   | 4 | 2 |   | 6 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 8 |   |   |   | 6 | 4 |   |
|   | 3 |   | 1 |   | 2 |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   | 7 |   |

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

## The Times Daily Quiz Olav Bjortomt

**1** In 2022, which e-commerce giant finalised its acquisition of MGM Studios for \$8.5 billion?

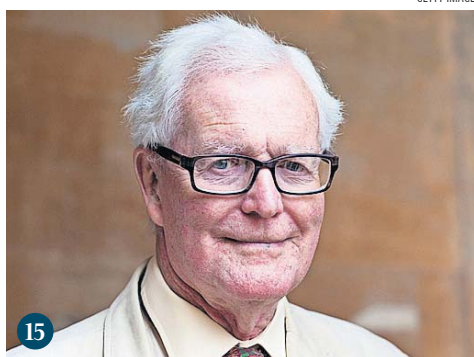
2 A root beer float is made with scoops of which dessert food?

### 3 Actor Derek Thompson recently announced his departure from which BBC drama after 37 years?

**4** In his December 1, 1862 message to Congress, which US president said: "Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history"?

**5 Formed in Manchester, which band had a 1986 hit single with *Holding Back the Years*?**

**6** Stockton-on-Tees, Newton Aycliffe and Seaham are towns in



which ceremonial  
county?

**7** The jukebox musical *Once Upon a One More Time* features the songs of which US pop star (b 1981)?

### 8 Omai, the Polynesian subject of Joshua

Reynolds' c 1776 portrait,  
said to which monarch:  
"How do, King Tosh!"?

**9** Elevated to collegiate status by Pope Paul II in 1467, which church is also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh?

**10** The oldest recorded

pedigree pig breed in Britain is named after which county?

## 11 Who began producing the spoof listings website TVGoHome in 1999?

**12** Which clam-shaped copper cooking pot originates from the Algarve, Portugal's southernmost region?

**13** Hanged near York in 1770, which “King” led the Cragg Vale Coiners counterfeiter gang?

**14** In 2022, who became the oldest world champion in snooker history?

**15** Which Conservative politician (b 1930) is pictured?

Answers on page 15

**Suko** No 3822

A 3x3 grid with a color gradient from light orange to dark orange. The grid contains the numbers 21, 12, 17, 17, 20, 14, and 11. The numbers 20, 14, and 11 are in circles at the bottom, which are also colored light orange, medium orange, and dark orange respectively.

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

**For interactive puzzles visit  
thetimes.co.uk**

## The Times Quick Cryptic No 2412 by Hurley

[illegible]

### Across

- 1 Furniture item some French  
linked with king (4)
- 3 Important committee type  
here (8)
- 8 Remarkably so, a plus in  
relation to marriage? (7)
- 10 Tell everyone after some  
characters have left bar (5)
- 11 Nice article about sparks (11)
- 13 Pay, alas, in retrospect, really  
just peripheral (6)
- 15 Number crossing river — this  
one? (6)
- 17 Group of islands having  
geographical change, not the  
first (11)
- 20 Bring an end to deal, unnatural  
to some extent on reflection  
(5)
- 21 The pool — new problem for  
motorist (7)
- 22 Force give weapons to  
detectives in rural setting? (8)
- 23 Extremely distinctive, fluent,  
skifful (4)

**Down**

- 1 Daughter is persecutor (not  
half!) — scatter! (8)
- 2 Society bound to move  
obliquely (5)
- 4 Clear at work I tucked into  
cake (6)
- 5 Ready to fight, call jingoes  
regularly, payment to follow  
(11)
- 6 Progress loan of money (7)
- 7 Cook railway fish (4)
- 9 Was in session, ironically  
dismissing cricket side  
in mocking way (11)
- 12 Naive love taken in by pub  
money (8)
- 14 Student's ultimately doubtful  
source of income (7)
- 16 One giving extra money for  
unloading truck (6)
- 18 Make amends? Agreed (5)
- 19 Healthy in the end making  
English fine drink (4)

Yesterday's solution on page 15\*

LUXURY LODGES

UNWIND AND DISCOVER

WE DON'T JUST  
SELL LUXURY LODGES.

WE ARE  
LUXURY  
LODGES

PRICES FROM £250,000  
UP TO 8% YIELD

FLEXIBLE  
FINANCE

BUY TO LET  
OPTIONS

0808 258 9243

[residences.luxurylodges.com/times](https://residences.luxurylodges.com/times)